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Japan

Government To 'Unfreeze' Iran Development Aid

OW1211140392 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] A government source has disclosed that the United States is asking Japan and industrial powers in Europe to restrict exports to Iran. The source said that during talks held last month between Japan and the United States on export controls, U.S. officials pointed out that Iran stands out in the Middle East in terms of continued military buildup. They said that there are signs of aggressive intent on the part of Iran in the Persian Gulf. They also warned that there is a strong possibility that Iran may become a military threat in the future. Under such circumstances, the United States considers that it is necessary for Japan and other Western powers to enforce strict restrictions on exports to Iran, including not only arms and arms-related materials, but also consumer goods. And as such, the United States has asked these countries to go along with its plans.

In response to this, however, the Japanese Government said that concerning restrictions on exports of arms and arms-related materials to countries that may cause conflicts, negotiations are currently being conducted in accordance with the agreements reached by the G-7 countries last June. The government retorted that at the present stage, there are too many difficulties involved in imposing sanctions solely against Iran. It proposed that the issue be discussed at the G-7 meeting to be held soon in Germany.

The Japanese Government has firmed up its plan [to] unfreeze the Official Development Assistance program toward Iran—for the first time in 16 years—and implement the program well ahead of the other industrialized powers. Thus, the government is likely to find itself in a difficult position due to the current request from the U.S. side.

Reports: U.S. Subs Tracking Plutonium Shipment

OW1211043392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0419 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—Japan has not requested U.S. assistance in protecting a plutonium shipment, and has not been informed that U.S. nuclear submarines are tracking the freighter carrying it, the top government spokesman said Thursday.

Chief cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the government is investigating reports that U.S. nuclear submarines are monitoring the Akatsuki Maru en route to Japan from France out of apparent concern over hijack attempts.

The Akatsuki Maru is under the protection of a single Japanese patrol ship, the Shikishima.

U.S. Government sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Washington on Wednesday that U.S. nuclear submarines are monitoring the journey of the Atsuki Maru until the freighter reaches Japanese territorial waters.

The U.S. Defense Department has officially said that Japan's security plans are adequate. The U.S. Government sources, however, said the Shikishima, armed with twin 35-millimeter antiaircraft cannon and a 20-mm Gatling-type gun, would be insufficient in case of an attempted hijack.

"We have no agreement with the U.S. for protection. We have neither been informed by the U.S. that they plan to provide surveillance, nor have we made any such requests," Kato told a news conference.

Asked if Japan would welcome such assistance, Kato replied, "It depends on the case." He declined to elaborate.

A senior government official, commenting anonymously, said Japan would welcome the surveillance if it were an act of "good will."

The U.S. sources in Washington said the decision to keep the Akatsuki Maru under surveillance is an independent plan whose scope does not infringe upon Japanese sovereignty.

One source added if the Japanese Government had officially made a request of Washington to provide an escort, there would have been criticism within the U.S. that Japan considered the U.S. military its own hired soldiers, thus politicizing the problem.

Kato said Japan would continue to seek U.S. agreement to the plutonium shipments once President-elect Bill Clinton takes office next January.

Japan must obtain permission for the shipments from the U.S. and Canada because the plutonium was extracted from spent fuel provided by those two countries.

Japan plans to ship some 30 tons of plutonium from France and Britain over the next 20 years for use in nuclear power plants.

Ship Said Not To Use Panama Canal

OW1211050192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Mexico City, Nov. 11 KYODO—The Japanese freighter Akatsuki Maru and its cargo of near-weapons-grade plutonium will not travel through the Panama Canal, Costa Rica's Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mines Hernan Bravo Trejos said Wednesday.

Bravo told reporters in San Jose that he had received confirmation from the Japanese Government that the 4,800-ton vessel would not use the canal nor pass through Costa Rican territorial waters, Mexico's state-run NOTIMEX news agency reported.

The Akatsuki Maru left France on Saturday with its cargo of one ton of plutonium but its return route to Japan has been kept a secret to prevent terrorist hijacking attempts, according to the Japanese Government.

The ship and its armed escort vessel are being tracked, however, by two tugs from Greenpeace, the international environmental group, which says it will report their progress around the world.

Okinawa Adopts Resolution Protesting Accident

OW1111053992 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 5 Nov 92 Evening Edition p 1

[Excerpts] The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly held an extraordinary session at 1000 on the morning of 5 November to unanimously adopt a "resolution protesting an accident involving a U.S. Forces helicopter in Okinawa" and a statement calling on the need to observe earthquakes frequently occurring near Iriomote Island and to strengthen the monitoring system of the earthquakes. The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly plans to send a delegation to Tokyo to protest the accident on the U.S. military base and request observation for the earthquakes. [passage omitted]

At the extraordinary session, Seichu Kikuyama, chairman of the Special Committee on U.S. Military Bases, explained why he introduced the resolution protesting the helicopter accident at Futenma Air Station. Speaking at the session, Mr. Kikuyama said that the accident occurred near the Futenma Second Elementary School and residential areas and that he took the accident as a serious matter. Saying that "such an accident could have developed into a disaster if the slightest mistake had been made," the chairman stressed the need to make a thorough investigation into the cause of the accident and have Futenma Air Station returned. [passage omitted]

Spokesman on U.S. Request for Aid to Somalia

OW1111091392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0849 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—The United States has asked Japan to dispatch Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) transport aircraft for multinational relief efforts in Somalia, the ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday. The U.S. request calls for Japan to send its C-130 planes to transport food and personnel to Somalia, where a large number of people are on the brink of starvation, the mass circulation daily said quoting a U.S. government source in Washington.

The Wednesday evening edition of the newspaper quoted the source as saying the U.S. unofficially asked Japan to send the military planes and give humanitarian assistance to Somalia, which is suffering from the effects of a prolonged severe drought and civil war.

The request was made a few weeks ago, the source reportedly said.

The ASAHI quoted a Japanese Foreign Ministry official as saying Japan has not received such a request from the U.S. but that Japan is considering relief measures other than financial assistance to Somalia's plight.

Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the U.S. has made a general appeal for Japan's cooperation but that Japan did not regard it as a specific request for a SDF transport plane.

Kato said Japan's SDF would not participate unless warring parties arrived at a ceasefire—one of the conditions specified in the U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Law approved by parliament earlier this year.

Kato said Japan is considering other options for expanding assistance, including chartering aircraft from the private sector.

"The civil war is not over and the (peacekeeping law's) first condition, that warring groups must have a ceasefire, has not been met," Kato told a news conference.

He said Japan is just beginning to implement the law "and if we don't adhere to it, we will not be able to win public support."

The United States, which has been spearheading the relief effort, and the U.N. have since August been gearing up to offer extensive relief, with other countries including West Germany and France taking part in aid operations.

Japan has pledged 10 million dollars worth of assistance and will spend 5 million dollars on the U.N.-led aid program in Somalia.

Further on Relief for Somalia

OW1211101392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—Japan will probably have to depend on a foreign air charter service to transport humanitarian relief goods to Somalia, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, was referring to a recent call from the United States for Japan to physically participate in multinational relief operations currently underway in Somalia.

The official said the government would like to join the efforts in a visible manner such as by sending C-130 transport aircraft that belong to the Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

He noted that Japan is now sending C-130's to Cambodia to support its peacekeepers working there under the auspices of the United Nations.

But because some Diet members are opposed to SDF involvement in a place as remote as Somalia, the government will likely have no choice but to foot the bill for a United States charter company to do the risky job on its behalf, the official said.

He ruled out participation by a Japanese private-sector airline as their unions adamantly oppose involvement in such potentially dangerous operations.

Japan was faced with a similar situation during the Persian Gulf war, at which time it drew criticism for not take risks when it hired a U.S. charter company to transport supplies for allied forces that were facing off with Iraq.

Tokyo Decides To Join Serbian Rights Mission

OW1111101492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Japan will participate in a European mission headquartered in Belgrade to monitor human rights in ethnically diverse, potential trouble spots in Serbia, a top Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has accepted Japan's offer to dispatch a Serbian-speaking diplomat to take part in its "long-term mission."

The mission would send investigators when deemed necessary to Kosovo Province, where ethnic Albanians form a majority, Vojvodina Province, where many ethnic Hungarians and other minorities reside, and the Sandzak region, populated largely by Muslims.

The defined role of the mission is to facilitate dialogue between authorities and the various ethnic communities, to gather information on violations of human rights and basic freedoms, and contribute to the solution of such problems.

It is aimed at halting the spread of ethnic warfare in the republics of the former Yugoslavia.

The official did not say when Japanese participation in the new CSCE endeavor would begin, but on October 28, Belgrade gave the grouping a mandate to begin operations.

Japan has recently been allowed to attend CSCE meetings with the right to contribute. But officials said Japan is not striving to join the pan-European security body as a full member.

Singapore Defense Minister Arrives for Visit

OW1111085092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Singapore's Defense Minister Yeo Ning Hong arrived in Japan on Wednesday for a five-day visit at the invitation of the Defense Agency, government officials said.

The officials said Yeo will meet Thursday [12 November] with Defense Agency Director General Sohei Miyashita. He is scheduled to visit government and private-sector research and manufacturing facilities related to defense, they said.

Yeo's talks with Miyashita are expected to center on the ramifications that the November 3 presidential election in the United States will have on Japan-U.S. defense ties and on the security of the Asia-Pacific region at large.

Some countries have expressed concern over the prospect of a diminished U.S. commitment to maintaining a strong military presence in the region since President-Elect Bill Clinton has vowed to focus on domestic problems.

In late September Yeo said, "The U.S.-Japan security arrangement in its present form...may not endure and may be significantly altered in the years to come."

He reportedly said earlier this year that if the United States withdraws from the region, Japan is one country that could rise to fill the vacuum so Southeast Asian countries are closely watching to see what role Tokyo will allow its Self-Defense Forces to take.

Yeo is the first Singaporean defense minister to visit Japan since Goh Chok Tong, now the country's prime minister, traveled to Tokyo in 1989 as deputy prime minister and defense minister.

BOJ Governor Mieno Returns From BIS Meeting

OW1111095092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0231 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno returned to Tokyo on Wednesday morning from a trip to Basel, Switzerland, where he attended a monthly meeting of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Mieno, who left Japan November 4, also visited Austria to exchange views on recent financial and economic developments in Europe with Austrian officials.

Prosecutors Given Free Hand in Kyubin Scandal

OW1111055592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato gave assurance Wednesday that the government would not interfere in the trials involving the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money scandal.

His statement came after the ruling Liberal Democratic (LDP) dropped a plan to issue libel writs against prosecutors over depositions they read out in court naming some LDP politicians as having acted to silence a 1987 harassment campaign by a right-wing group against former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The government will not interfere with what lawyers or prosecutors say in court, Kato said.

Kato said that he does not believe the abandoned plan by the LDP to file a libel complaint against prosecutors was an attempt to intimidate the judiciary.

"The LDP was not trying to intimidate, it was trying to draw attention to a problem," Kato told a news conference.

The LDP on Tuesday retreated from a plan to file a libel complaint it said was aimed to "restore the honor" of eight LDP politicians mentioned in the court depositions read out last Thursday and Friday.

The LDP, however, said it will back individual politicians who wish to go ahead and file complaints or damages suits against the prosecutors or the people who made the depositions.

The prosecution read out at a Tokyo district court hearing last Thursday a deposition taken from Ryumin Oshima, leader of the Nihon Kominto rightist group which promoted the harassment street campaign in 1987 against Takeshita who was at that time running for the LDP presidency and prime ministership.

Oshima's deposition named LDP members Shin Kanemaru, Yoshiro Mori, Seiroku Kajiyama, Keizo Obuchi, Koichi Hamada, Masaru Urata and Hirohide Uozumi as having contacted the Nihon Kominto.

It said Kanemaru's proxy and Mori, the incumbent chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, each tried to offer several billion yen to the group to stop the harassment campaign.

Hamada, Uozumi and Urata have admitted contacting the rightist group, but Kanemaru, Mori, Obuchi and Kajiyama have denied the allegations.

A separate deposition taken from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.'s former president, Hiroyasu Watanabe, said Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda was also involved.

SDP Decides To Demand Takeshita Diet Summons

OW1111084492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0800 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—The opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) has decided to demand that four people, including former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, be first summoned to the Diet to testify on their alleged roles in a widening money-and-mob scandal, SDP officials said Wednesday.

The party wants retired political kingpin Shin Kanemaru, his secretary Masahisa Haibara, and Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the scandal-plagued Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., as well as Takeshita, to be summoned as sworn witnesses, the officials said.

The main opposition party plans to urge the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to accept its demand, after narrowing its differences with Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) with which it had earlier wanted 10 people summoned, they said.

The plan came after the LDP expressed its readiness on Tuesday to consider Diet testimony by Takeshita and other politicians allegedly involved in the scandal.

The LDP, however, has strongly refused an opposition demand that Kanemaru be summoned to the Diet, claiming the former LDP vice president has already taken political responsibility by resigning from the House of Representatives.

Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the SDP's Diet Affairs Committee, told a news conference that the party has reduced the number of people it originally wanted to give Diet testimony due to the tight schedule of the current extraordinary Diet session, which began October 30.

"Considering the limited term of 40 days, we hope dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition camp can begin as soon as possible," Murayama said.

The Diet has been deadlocked over the opposition camp's chorus for testimony by Takeshita and Kanemaru.

Kanemaru resigned from the lower house in October after having to pay only a 200,000 yen fine for illegally receiving 500 million yen in political donations from Watanabe, after a summary procedure in which he avoided both questioning by prosecutors and standing trial.

Although prosecutors questioned the former LDP vice president on Saturday, the disposal and whereabouts of the money he received is still unknown.

Meanwhile, Takeshita has been under fire for his alleged ties with mobsters when assuming the LDP presidency in the autumn of 1987.

Shortly before the governing party presidential race five years ago, Kanemaru allegedly asked Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-Kai crime syndicate, to silence a rightwing group's harassment campaign against Takeshita through Tokyo Sagawa's Watanabe.

Watanabe told prosecutors about the connection among Kanemaru, Ishii and Takeshita after he was arrested on suspicion of aggravated breach of trust in February.

He was quoted as saying Takeshita had known about the involvement of the gang boss in the effort to stop the rightist's campaign.

Conflict Between LDP, Opposition Intensifies

OW1111141492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1358 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—The conflict between the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties intensified in the Diet on Wednesday as the LDP demanded 11 opposition members be summoned to the Diet to give testimony in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

There is now no prospect of the budget committee of the House of Representatives starting discussions on both the scandal and the supplementary budget plan aimed at boosting the sluggish economy, both ruling and opposition party officials said.

At a meeting of executive members of the lower house budget committee to discuss the panel's timetable, the LDP presented a list of 11 opposition members it wants to summon to the Diet to testify under oath in connection with the Sagawa and other political scandals.

The list includes Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), and Ryoichi Yasutsune, a member of the House of Councillors who was ousted from the main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) because of his alleged links with the Sagawa Kyubin group.

A photograph showing Ouchi, leader of the fourth-ranked centrist opposition party, seated with a crime boss connected with the Inagawa-Kai underworld syndicate was made pubic last year in a weekly photo magazine.

Among other people the LDP wants summoned is SDP member Kenichi Ueno, who quit the lower house in March over his questionable relationship with a scandal-tainted owner of a resort development company.

The LDP members of the committee told their opposition counterparts that the ruling party will formally demand on Thursday that all the 11 opposition politicians and party officials on their list be summoned to the Diet as sworn witnesses.

All the opposition parties reacted sharply to the LDP demand, saying the list was presented as part of LDP efforts to sidestep the real problem of the Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

The SDP, Komeito and the DSP are united in their earlier demand that a total of 10 people, including former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, be summoned as sworn witnesses to the Diet to testify on their alleged roles in the Sagawa scandal.

On Tuesday, the LDP expressed its readiness to consider Diet testimony by Takeshita and other politicians allegedly involved in the scandal.

The LDP, however, strongly refused an opposition demand that former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru be summoned to the Diet, claiming he has already taken political responsibility by resigning from the House of Representatives.

Kanemaru resigned from the lower house in October after having to pay only a 200,000 yen fine for illegally receiving 500 million yen in political donations from Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, after a summary procedure in which Kanemaru avoided both questioning by prosecutors and standing trial.

Although prosecutors questioned the former LDP vice president on Saturday, the disposal and whereabouts of the money he received is still unknown.

Kanemaru was also alleged to have asked Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-Kai, through Watanabe, to stop a harassment campaign against Takeshita by Kominto, a Takamatsu-based rightist group, in order to help Takeshita win the 1987 LDP presidential election.

Takeshita was elected LDP president in October of that year and thus became prime minister.

In Wednesday's executive meeting of the lower house committee, the LDP did not make clear its stance on the opposition demand that the 10 be summoned to the Diet.

Meanwhile, Takeshita and Kanemaru had a meeting at Kanemaru's office, where they appear to have discussed the opposition's demand, although the contents of their talks were not made known.

LDP Politician 'Tried' To Cancel Protest Rally

OW1111120592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0548 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Kumamoto, Nov. 11 KYODO—One of seven politicians named in a court case as having acted to end a 1987 harassment campaign against former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita tried to have a mass rally against the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal called off, the Kumamoto branch of the main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) said Wednesday.

Hirohide Uozumi, a House of Representatives member of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, made the request the day before the rally, held by some 1,200 people in Kumamoto on Tuesday, it said.

The rally demanded full disclosure of the scandal and the resignations of all politicians involved.

Uozumi, in a letter delivered by his two aides to the SDP's Kumamoto branch office Monday, said the SDP's activities were defamatory, as the truth has not yet come to light. He accused the party of deliberately exaggerating events to provoke a public response.

An SDP official said the letter represented "interference in the constitutionally guaranteed right of assembly" and described his action as "unbelievable behavior."

Along with six other LDP politicians, Uozumi, who is currently parliamentary vice minister for defense, was said in a statement by the leader of a right-wing group, Nihon Kominto, to have moved to end its campaign against Takeshita using loudspeaker trucks in the streets around the Diet in 1987, when he was bidding to become party president and thus prime minister.

The statement was read by prosecutors at the Tokyo district court on November 5 in the trial of a businessman linked with the country's No. 2 underworld syndicate Inagawa-Kai.

LDP politicians named as having contacted Nihon Kominto directly or indirectly in 1987, besides Uozumi, were Shin Kanemaru, Yoshiro Mori, Seiroku Kajiyama, Keizo Obuchi, Koichi Hamada and Masaru Urata, according to a deposition taken from the right-wing group's leader, Ryumin Oshima.

Hamada, Uozumi, and Urata have said they engaged in lobbying, but Kanemaru, Mori, Obuchi, and Kajiyama have denied any involvement.

A separate deposition taken from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin's former president, Hiroyasu Watanabe, said Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda was also involved.

LDP Panel on Giving Public Funds to Parties

OW1111120892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—A ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) panel agreed Wednesday that public money should be given to political parties to stamp out corruption, LDP officials said.

The subcommittee of the LDP's political reform headquarters is drawing up a plan to regulate political funds as part of the LDP's response to public anger over a series of political corruption cases, including the ongoing Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

The scandal revolves around the recurring problems caused by the huge amounts of privately donated money necessary to run political campaigns and other party activities.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who also serves as LDP president, has pledged to work out comprehensive political and electoral reform measures by the end of this month.

Addressing Wednesday's session of the panel, Miyazawa urged its members to map out a drastic blueprint to reform the political funds system, according to the officials.

The members agreed the smooth flow of political funds is a basis of democratic politics.

They also concurred that enhancing the transparency of such funds is vital for providing public money for the activities of political organizations.

Police Reportedly Quizzed Rightist on Takeshita

OW1211060592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0450 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—Police questioned the head of a right-wing group at the center of a widening political scandal in 1987 about its harassment of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, a weekly magazine reported Thursday.

The magazine, SHUKAN BUNSHUN, said in its November 19 issue that the National Police Agency (NPA) sent officers to question Torao Inamoto, the then-leader of Nihon Kominto (Emperor's Subjects Party of Japan) in early October 1987 shortly after the group halted its campaign against Takeshita.

Police have denied that Inamoto was questioned, but the magazine printed what it said was a police document on the questioning. Inamoto died in April 1991.

The rightist group used loudspeaker vans around the Diet building to blare ironic praise of Takeshita, who it regarded as having betrayed former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka.

At the time of the harassment, Takeshita was seeking the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). He succeeded in obtaining the post, thus becoming prime minister.

Citing the document, the magazine said Keizo Obuchi, former LDP secretary general and Takeshita's right-hand man, asked Inamoto to stop the harassment.

It said Inamoto spurned the request, saying, "Kominto is registered as a political group at the Home Affairs Ministry. We are only conducting political activities, so we have no intention of stopping it."

Shortly before the LDP presidential race, political kingpin Shin Kanemaru reportedly asked Susumu Ishii, the now-deceased leader of the Inagawa-kai crime syndicate, to help stop Kominto's harassment. The approach was made through Hiroyasu Watanabe, then-president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

Watanabe, now on trial for aggravated breach of trust, told prosecutors about the connection among Kanemaru, Ishii, and Takeshita after he was arrested in February.

He was quoted as saying Takeshita had known about the involvement of the gang boss in the effort to stop the rightists.

Kanemaru resigned from politics in October after admitting he received 500 million yen in political donations from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, a now-defunct trucking company.

Takeshita has been under fire over the reported use of mobsters to stop the harassment. He has denied any link with such groups and said he will explain his side of the story in the Diet.

Court Opens Hearing on Disparity of Vote Value

OW1111090492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0611 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—The Supreme Court on Wednesday opened a hearing on a set of three suits in which 140 voters are asking for the results of the February 1990 general election for the House of Representatives to be nullified because of disparities in the value of votes.

The highest court's 15-justice grand bench presided over by chief justice Ryohachi Kusaba is expected to give a ruling in early 1993, judicial sources said.

The decision to consider the case means that the Supreme Court will give a judgment on the constitutionality of the election or change precedents, the sources said.

The voters, from 24 of the 130 electoral districts, argue that the disparity in the value of votes between sparsely populated and heavily populated constituencies is too wide and violates the constitutional right to equality under the law.

They are asking the Supreme Court to rule on appeals against decisions by high courts in Tokyo, Osaka and Hiroshima.

The Tokyo high court had ruled that the 1990 general election was constitutional. But the Osaka high court said later that the election was unconstitutional, while the Hiroshima high court ruled it was held in a "state of unconstitutionality."

The high courts in Osaka and Hiroshima declared the results valid, however, saying that to rule them invalid would cause major political and social confusion.

The voters are asking the court to order the election administration committees in each place to declare the election results null and void.

In the 1990 general election for the 512-seat House of Representatives, the lower chamber of the Diet, the value of one vote in the No. 2 electoral district in Miyazaki Prefecture was 3.18 times bigger than one in the No. 4 constituency in Kanagawa Prefecture.

The disparity in the value of votes has been widening year after year because of the increase in population in major urban areas, particularly Tokyo and Osaka and their vicinities.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1983 that a disparity of three times or greater in a general election for the lower house violates the Constitution, which says all people are equal under the law.

In the February 1991 decision, the Tokyo high court said a 3.18 to 1 disparity rate in the value of votes was not excessively large compared with 2.99 to 1 in the 1986 general election, which was ruled to be constitutional by the Supreme Court in 1988.

But in May of that year, the Osaka high court ruled that the elections were unconstitutional because of the disparity of vote value and the legislature's failure to correct the disparity.

In another suit, the Hiroshima high court ruled in October 1991 that the 3.18 to 1 disparity rate violates the constitutional right of equality but said a reasonable period for the Diet to take measures to redress the disparity had not yet ended before the election.

The disparity in the value of votes in the lower house was lowered to a maximum of 2.92 to 1 in 1986 after the Supreme Court ruled that the 1983 general election, with the largest vote value discrepancy at 4.40 to 1, was unconstitutional.

But the disparity in the value of votes for the lower house has widened since then.

According to a Home Affairs Ministry survey in August, a vote in the least-populated constituency of the House of Representatives is worth 3.4 times more than one in the most heavily populated district.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party won a stable majority of 275 seats in the election.

Miyazawa, Watanabe Urge Eliminating Factionalism

OW1211053692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0454 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Thursday agreed on the need to eliminate factionalism within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), party officials said.

Miyazawa, president of the LDP, and Watanabe, deputy prime minister, reached the agreement in a morning meeting at the prime minister's official residence, the officials said.

The prime minister told Watanabe he will voice his opinion on eliminating damages caused by faction politics in a meeting of the party's political reform headquarters to be held later in the day, they said.

Miyazawa later told reporters he asked Watanabe's views on the matter because it will be the focal issue in the political reform meeting.

According to the party officials, Watanabe pointed o that "there are good points and bad points" in factionalism, citing the factions' intervention in appointment of personnel in the party and in the cabinet as the bad side.

The foreign minister also urged Miyazawa to carry out party reform, the officials said.

The Miyazawa-Watanabe denunciation of factionalism came as a "policy study group" within the LDP's largest faction held its second study meeting on Thursday morning.

The group, headed by Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and backed by former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, was inaugurated on October 28 in a move widely believed to be a step to forming a splinter faction.

The formation of the group, which calls itself Reform Forum 21, sprang from an intensified power struggle within the 109-member Takeshita faction, which was triggerred by the downfall in October of Shin Kanemaru, called the "godfather" of Japanese politics.

Faction members loyal to the Hata-Ozawa coalition established the study group five days after an anti-Ozawa group picked Keizo Obuchi, another former LDP secretary general, as the Takeshita faction's new leader.

Also in the 30-minute meeting, Miyazawa and Watanabe exchanged views on the stalled Diet session and possible steps for political reform, they said.

Miyazawa Tells LDP To Draft Reform Measures

OW1211123992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday instructed the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to draw up specific measures to eliminate factionalism and to carry out party reform, LDP sources said.

Miyazawa gave the instructions at a subcommittee meeting of the LDP's political reform headquarters.

Miyazawa, who is also LDP president, pointed out that factionalism within the party is causing problems in personnel appointments, political funds and elections.

Specifically, he said faction politics "prevent the appointment of the right person to the right place."

He also said the fact that factions provide some kind of political funds to parliamentarians gives the public the impression "that such acts restrict a parliamentarian's conscience and political judgment."

Miyazawa, who has pledged to work out comprehensive political and electoral reform measures by the end of this month, said that eliminating such problems is important in becoming a "modern political party which can carry out policies serving the people."

His remarks came amid sharp public criticism over a major money scandal involving Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct trucking company, and key political figures.

Earlier in the day, Miyazawa agreed with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on the need to eliminate factionalism within the party.

In the meeting, Watanabe pointed out that "there are good points and bad points" in factionalism, citing the factions' intervention in the appointment of personnel in the party and the cabinet as the bad side.

Ruling, Opposition Parties Negotiations Break Up

OW1211112692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—Diet debate remained stalled Thursday as the ruling and opposition parties broke off negotiations on the timetable of a parliamentary budget committee over a demand for the summoning of 11 opposition members.

At a meeting of directors of the House of Representatives committee, the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) submitted a list of 11 former and incumbent opposition members it wants summoned to the Diet as sworn witnesses in connection with political scandals.

The list includes Ryoichi Yasutsune, a former Social Democratic Party (SDP) member of the House of Councillors recently ousted from the party over dubious loans from the Sagawa Kyubin group, and Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), who is seen sitting with a mobster in a photograph made public last year.

LDP Budget Committee directors, however, told their opposition counterparts the ruling party will put a priority on summoning five people on the list to the Diet, excluding Ouchi, Yasutsune, and four others.

The directors from the SDP, the largest opposition party, refused to accept the LDP list and walked out of the meeting, which was adjourned.

After the meeting, committee directors from the SDP, Komeito, and the DSP agreed to remain united in opposing the LDP demand.

The LDP revealed the list Thursday to counter an opposition demand to summon 10 people, including former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, to the Diet to testify under oath about their alleged roles in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

In mid-October, Kanemaru resigned from the lower house after being fined 200,000 yen for his illegal receipt of 500 million yen in political donation from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct trucking firm.

Kanemaru is also alleged to have asked Susumu Ishii, the late leader of the Inagawa-kai crime syndicate, through Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa, in 1987 to help stop a rightists' group harassment of Takeshita, then vying for the LDP presidency.

The LDP has indicated it will meet the opposition demand to summon Takeshita to the lower house budget committee as a sworn witness.

However, it has strongly rejected the request that Kanemaru be a sworn witness, saying the former LDP kingpin has already taken political responsibility by quitting his Diet seat.

The debate in the committee, which is scheduled to discuss a supplementary budget for fiscal 1992, has been deadlocked since questions concluded last week on Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's policy speech at a plenary session.

Defense Agency Fires Officer Who Urged Coup

OW1211104092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—The Defense Agency dismissed on Thursday a military officer who claimed that only a coup d'etat or revolution could resolve Japan's political corruption, agency officials said.

The agency fired Maj. Shinsaku Yanai, of the Ground Self-Defense Force, 45, on disciplinary grounds, the officials said.

Yanai made the call in an article in the October 22 issue of the popular weekly magazine SHUKAN BUNSHUN.

In the article Yanai, a teacher of war history at Chiba's Anti-Aircraft Artillery School, criticized the lax legal treatment of political powerbroker Shin Kanemaru, who resigned from the Diet on October 14 in the wake public outrage over his acceptance of an illicit 500 million yen donation from a now-defunct company with links to mobsters, for which he had only to pay a 200,000 yen fine.

"It's now impossible to right the wrongs legally through elections, the basis of a democracy. What paths can we take to remove this? Only a coup d'etat or a revolution," Yanai wrote in the magazine article penned before Kanemaru resigned his Diet seat.

Business Urges Miyazawa To Speed Extra Budget

OW1111095192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0339 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Japanese business leaders Wednesday urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for early Diet approval of a supplementary budget plan for fiscal 1992 in order to stimulate the slowed economy, officials said.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other executives of three other main business groups said the Diet should give top priority to passing of the budget during the current extraordinary session rather than debating political reform or inquiring into the Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

Miyazawa pledged efforts for the Diet's early passage of the budget.

The business leaders also paid a call Wednesday on Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, to make a similar request.

Officials 'Worried' Over Stalled Budget Talks

OW1111122592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Urging early Diet approval of a supplementary budget plan for fiscal 1992, high-ranking officials of the Finance Ministry expressed concern Wednesday of adverse effects a delay might have on the weak economy.

"If approval comes later (than mid-November), stimulative effects will abate with delayed enforcement of public works investment and other pump-priming measures," a high-ranking official of the budget bureau said.

The government submitted its supplementary budget package October 30 to the extraordinary Diet session and the ministry had expected the package to pass in a few days after the start of debate in the House of Representatives budget committee on Monday.

But the ministry's timetable was upset after the session was stalled over an issue related to the Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

Of the 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package, announced in late August, a total of more than 6 trillion yen of the package is on hold until the supplementary budget is passed, including 3.9 trillion yen in public works spending and 550 billion yen in occupancy expenses.

Nonbudgetary measures, such as a 1.4 trillion yen in additional fiscal investment and loan programs and 1.8 trillion yen in projects conducted independently by local governments, are already under way.

If the Diet does not approve the extra budget until December, the pump-priming package will lose the effect as "the biggest-ever measures," the officials said.

Contracts for front-loading spending in public works thus far have reached 66.5 percent of the outlay planned in the fiscal 1992 budget at the end of August. For the April-September period next year, a target of 75.2 percent has been set.

Against this backdrop, officials are worried that lagging approval of the extra budget will lead to a drained budget for public spending for the second half of the year.

Furthermore, on-schedule public works are more difficult in northern heavy-snow areas like Hokkaido as winter approaches, a senior finance official said.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata earlier said "opposition parties will realize...and agree to start discussions on the supplementary budget package."

Analysts said, however, the cause of the deadlocked Diet is such a big issue that even ministry officials cannot tackle the problem with their skillful, behind-the-door solicitation, and are nervously watching discussions between the governing and opposition parties.

Later in the day, a top-ranking Finance Ministry official said of Diet approval of the supplementary budget "the sooner the better," brushing aside the argument in the ruling party that some delay is acceptable.

The official was responding to a question about remarks by a senior Liberal Democratic Party politician that the passage of the extra budget can be delayed to around December 6, two days before the current extraordinary Diet session is scheduled to end.

The finance official said the budget is important for shoring up the weak economy.

He pointed to the fact that a budget for public works projects is almost lacking for the second half of the fiscal year, which runs through March 1993, due to the front-loading of expenditures.

He also said public works would be difficult to implement in some regions as the winter approaches.

Ministry Says Merchandise Trade Surplus Widens

OW1211130792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—Japan's merchandise trade surplus in October widened a sharp 51.3 percent from a year earlier, bringing the total for the first 10 months of 1992 to a level already topping the annual record registered six years ago, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said Thursday.

The October trade surplus, as measured when goods pass customs, amounted to 10,894 million dollars, up from 7,202 million dollars in the same month last year.

The figure represents the largest reading for October, and the third largest for any month, an MOF official said.

Brisk exports, driven by cars and computers combined with lower import due to sluggish domestic demand to boost the surplus.

Exports in October surged 9.2 percent to 31,067 million dollars, while imports dropped 5.1 percent to 20,173 million dollars.

The aggregate trade black ink for the January-October period came to 88.36 billion dollars, surpassing the past record for an entire year, which was 82.74 billion dollars registered in 1986, the MOF official said.

The MOF official said the continued increase in the trade surplus—the 22nd consecutive year-on-year rise for October—is due mainly to a stronger yen, which leads to a higher dollar value of exports, and the weak domestic economy which depresses imports.

The dollar changed hands at an average 121.09 yen for exports in October, up 8.8 percent from a year earlier.

The bilateral surplus with the U.S. rose 28.5 percent to 4,941 million dollars.

The surplus with the European Community picked up 24.6 percent to 2,807 million dollars, while that with Asian countries vaulted 55.6 percent to 3,936 million dollars.

Economists believe the rise in the surplus will continue over the coming months.

Fujio Tatsuuma, chief manager at Mitsubishi Bank's Economic Research Department, said the factors that are causing the surplus to balloon will remain in place at least for the first six months of 1993.

Exports will continue to be strong as companies are shifting their mainstay exports to higher value-added products and the dollar will not rise sharply, and not above the 130 yen line, in the near future, he said.

Moreover, the export-depressing phase of the "J-curve effect" will not come for six more months, he added.

Meanwhile, imports will be in a slump as domestic demand will continue to be sluggish in the first half of 1993, he predicted.

Imports were particularly weak for airplanes, cars, and such materials as steel, copper, aluminum and their alloys.

Few economists fear a surge of protectionist sentiment after Bill Clinton takes office in January.

"It will be difficult to put a label on Clinton's economic policy, but he is anything but a staunch protectionist," said Mineko Sasaki-Smith, a senior economist at the Tokyo branch of Credit Suisse.

Although Clinton will not adopt traditional Democrat economic policies—larger fiscal expenses and a protectionist approach to trade—the old-line Democrats in Congress might try to pressurize [as received] the new President, Sasaki-Smith said.

She also said the dollar might strengthen somewhat due to the widening difference between U.S. and Japanese interest rates.

But a sharp upswing of the U.S. currency is unlikely because that would hurt U.S. exports, on which the U.S. economic recovery depends to a considerable extent, and would be detrimental to the trade balance between the two countries, she said.

"Neither the U.S. nor Japanese monetary authorities want to see the dollar climb sharply against the yen," she said.

Ministry Planning To Sell Japan Tobacco Shares

OW1211112192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance is planning to sell about 660,000 of a total of two million government-held Japan Tobacco Inc. shares sometime next fiscal year, ministry sources said Thursday.

The ministry calculates estimated revenue of 278.8 billion yen from the planned sales for the national budget of fiscal 1993, which begins next April, the sources said.

The revenue was calculated on the basis of the value of the company's net assets per share at the time of its establishment—418,000 yen, they said, adding the amount can be different according to the market situation.

The ministry is planning the sale as it anticipates declined tax revenues in fiscal 1993, the sources said.

The income from the share sale is likely to be used to redeem government bonds.

The ministry is considering selling the 660,000 shares all at once, but the timing depends on the market situation, the sources said.

It initially planned selling the Japan Tobacco shares this fiscal year together with government-held shares in East Japan Railway Co. and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.

But the ministry changed the plan due to the sharp decline in stock prices since summer.

Firms Face Struggle To Repay Warrant Bonds

OW1211042292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT 12 Nov 92

[By Isao Ikariya]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—After raising easy money with warrant bonds in the late 1980s, Japanese corporations are bracing for a tough period of massive redemptions of those debts as they find it costly to pay for them.

Many issuers want to refinance their warrant bonds with the same instruments, but the stock market's weakness is making it difficult to issue warrant bonds as they lose their appeal to investors.

Warrant bonds are usually issued with low coupon rates, while giving holders the right, but not the obligation, to purchase stock at a set price over a predetermined period, usually four years.

When the stock market was booming in the late 1980s, warrant bonds served as a money-saving instrument for corporations looking to raise funds.

But with the stock market crumbling now, many warrant bond issuers are being forced to resort to costly straight bonds, or bonds which are not convertible into equity.

The latest signal came in October, when Japanese companies issued a record 285 billion yen worth of straight bonds despite the fact that straight bonds force them to offer higher coupon rates.

Many underwriters expect the trend to continue for a while.

"This is the beginning of a period of a straight bond boom," said one underwriter at a major brokerage house.

The crucial test for warrant issuers comes in 1993, when some 10.1 trillion yen worth of warrant bonds are reportedly to be redeemed.

Bond underwriters estimate that about 30 percent of the redemption funds will be financed by straight bonds, although issuers must pay an annual interest of 4 percent to 6 percent for them, compared with 1 percent to 2 percent for warrant bonds.

But prospects for a smooth issuance of straight bonds look uncertain as tight regulations on the domestic bond market stand in the way of many corporations willing to float straight bonds, apart from their higher issuance costs.

Among these drawbacks, the so-called shelf registration system came under fire recently from Moody's Investors Service Inc., a leading U.S. credit rating agency.

Moody's said in a report released recently that Japan's shelf registration system is unlikely to lure many issuers into the domestic bond market without more loosening of regulations by the Finance Ministry.

Shelf registration is a system that allows a corporation to issue a preset amount of bonds over a certain period if the issuer makes a registration "on the shelf." This allows corporations to save money and time needed for offerings of their debts.

"Established in 1988, Japan's shelf registration system has been largely ignored by most Japanese corporations, with the exception of utilities," Moody's said, referring to tight requirements for corporations to become eligible.

At stake are higher credit ratings corporations must obtain to become eligible, an obligation that appears increasingly hard to meet now that ratings on many Japanese firms are being lowered as earnings performance declines.

"The shelf system can become attractive to Japanese corporations, if additional constraints on timely domestic bond issuance can be removed," Moody's said.

Survey Shows Land Prices Continuing To Drop

OW1111141092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Residential and commercial land prices continued to fall across the country during the three-month period between July 1 and October 1, according to a survey released by the National Land Agency Wednesday.

Prices of residential land in Osaka and surrounding prefectures dropped by 30 percent on an annualized basis, according to the survey which covered 804 selected sites in 61 areas in the country.

In Tokyo and surrounding prefectures, more than 60 percent of sites surveyed saw a drop of annualized 3 percent or more and about 30 percent of sites showed a decline of 1 percent or more.

In Osaka and adjacent areas, nearly 90 percent of sites surveyed registered a decrease in land prices with Nishinomiya and Ashiya, both in Hyogo Prefecture, recording 30 percent decreases, the survey said.

The agency releases this report in every three months.

LDP Panel Suggests Easing Rice Paddy Cutback

OW1111094992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—A panel of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided Wednesday that Japan should ease its policy of reducing rice paddies since it has a shortage of rice stocks, LDP officials said.

A subcommittee of the LDP's Research Commission on Comprehensive Agriculture decided to set the fiscal 1993 target for a cutback in the area of rice paddies under cultivation to somewhere between 650,000 and 700,000 hectares and keep it unchanged for three years, the officials said.

Japan's current rice farming policy calls for annual cutbacks of 830,000 hectares.

The officials said Japan should ease its policy of reducing rice paddies because the nation's stocks of rice at the end of October stood at only 260,000 tons, far below the optimum level of one million tons, due to typhoon damage to rice crops last year.

The panel also decided to maintain the current level of subsidies to rice farmers switching to production of other crops, as long as they plan to expand their operations.

The Finance Ministry, however, is calling for a reduction in subsidies to farmers.

Difficulties are expected in the coming negotiations among officials of the LDP, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry, and the Finance Ministry on the subsidies, government sources said.

North Korea

U.S. Charges of Arms Sales to Mideast Denounced

SK1111044792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 11 (KCNA)—The U.S. CIA again spread a false rumor through the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT recently that North Korea was exporting missiles to Middle East countries.

The servants of aggression who are old hands at breeding plots against others, in an effort to give "authenticity" to this black propaganda, did not forget to bring into relief "concrete" data saying that the exported missiles numbered more than 100 and the destination of the ships carrying the missiles is Iran and Syria.

A plot, however, has its unavoidable limitation, being a plot.

Even the veteran tricksters of the CIA failed this time, too, to present any source to back the truth of their black propaganda.

This is not the first time that they launched into such a habitual smear campaign about missile exports, a move to tarnish the image of the DPRK, a peaceloving country, and isolate it internationally.

The point is why the United States had to resort again to such false propaganda which cannot go down with anyone, its truth having been brought to full light, at the present moment.

As is known, the DPRK's just claim for an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea enjoys full support of the world's unbiased public opinion.

And the DPRK's strong protest and condemnation of the decision of the United States and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises have caused a great stir worldwide, driving the U.S. imperialists and their stooges into a tight corner.

These developments dealt a telling blow at the U.S. imperialists who are intending to keep hold on South Korea as its permanent nuclear base and turn it into a hotbed of nuclear war.

Hence, the United States turned again to an anti-DPRK smear campaign to mislead world opinion, and it is the wornout black propaganda about "missile export" which they invented as a last-ditch effort.

To speak ill of others is a habitual method of the imperialists engaged in aggression and plunder, and it is a well-known fact that they are trying to justify their criminal acts in this way.

The United States must give up its foolish attempts to do harm to the DPRK and stop its criminal acts to keep its nuclear weapons in hiding in South Korea and to resime the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises there.

South Students Demonstrate at U.S. Embassy

SK1211114392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 12 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 12 (KCNA)—More than 50 students of Chungang University Tuesday staged a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy protesting against the U.S. Army's attempt not to transfer the U.S. soldier who had murdered a Korean woman Yun Kum-hui, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They demanded an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. forces in occupying South Korea, denouncing the refusal of the U.S. side to transfer the murderer as an act slighting the South Korean people.

Daily Views U.S. Soldier's 'Killing' of Woman

SK1111113592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 11 Nov 92

["NODONG SINMUN Condemns Murder of S. Korean Woman by U.S. Soldier"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 11 (KCNA)—Pfc. Kenneth Michael belonging to the second division of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea, recently stabbed Yun Kum-hui on the head and body with a death tool, killing her in Kyonggi Province, after making sport of her. This is brutality which could be committed only by the U.S. cannibals who feel the thrill of joy at murder.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a commentary today.

The analyst notes:

The atrocities perpetrated by the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea are deliberate crimes that come from the brutal nature of those who have been used to conquest and plunder of other nations, racial discrimination and misanthropy from their ancestors.

The U.S. brutes make no bones of raping and killing women, looking down upon the South Korean people as "inferior people" of a colony.

The South Korean flunkeyists, zealously toeing their master's policy of aggression and war, are not only covering up as best they could the crimes of the U.S. imperialist aggressors, but also begging for their permanent presence in South Korea. This time, the South Korean puppet police arrested Kenneth Michael, the murderer who was confirmed by a witness' statement and evidences only to transfer him to the U.S. forces without so much as investigation, thus revealing the ugly color of the servant once again.

Demanding that the U.S. imperialist murderers be punished, the paper stresses: Only when broad segments of patriotic forces of South Korea valiantly turn out in the righteous struggle against the U.S. and fascism in close unity, the U.S. imperialist aggressors will be compelled to quit South Korea.

CPRF Secretariat on 'Murder' by U.S. Soldier

SK1211050292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 12 (KCNA)—The secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] published its Information No. 615 denouncing the brutal murder of a South Korean woman Yun Kum-hui by a soldier of the U.S. imperialist aggressive army.

This murder of a South Korean woman is one of the thousand and one crimes the U.S. imperialist aggression army is perpetrating, acting the master in South Korea under its occupation, the information said, sharply criticising it as human butchery never to be condoned.

Police arrested the murderer of the woman strutting about in blood-stained trousers. But the authorities were mean enough to transfer him to the U.S. Army investigation organ far from punishing him, the information said.

Even according to understated figures released by the South Korean police authorities, the U.S. soldiers' crimes such as murder and assaults put on record by the Kyonggi provincial police agency in the first nine months of the year number 160 cases involving 169 persons. But, none of them was taken into custody.

This is a graphic example showing the flunkeyism of the South Korean authorities who do not dare utter a word of protest, even though U.S. imperialist aggressive Army soldiers commit murder by breaking into others' houses, enjoying "extraterritorial" privileges.

The South Korean people should force the U.S. imperialist aggressors out of South Korea at once by intensifying the anti-U.S. struggle for independence.

Kim Il-song Receives U.S.-Resident Korean

SK0911115192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 9 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Son Won-tae, a U.S.-resident Korean on a visit to the motherland.

Present on the occasion was Kang Sok-song, director of the Party History Institute of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

President Kim Il-song highly appreciated the patriotic deed of Son Won-tae and his entourage and had a talk with him in a cordial atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings.

Son Won-tae presented President Kim Il-song with a gift prepared by his entourage.

President Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon for Son Won-tae.

SKNDF Statement Denounces Eagle-92 Exercises

SK0811084592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0811 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 8 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) in a statement November 3 condemned the "Eagle-92" joint maneuvers of the South Korean and U.S. authorities involving hundreds of thousands of troops as a very dangerous offensive training simulating an allout war against the North, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

A U.S. Defense Department spokesman said they were staging the exercise out of a "necessity to maintain military posture as long as the U.S. Forces are present in South Korea," the statement says, adding this is a ruse to mislead the aggressive nature of the exercise, an unconvincing sophism.

The United States is running amok with large-scale war exercises, the statement goes on, because it seeks to gratify its wild ambition to annex the North by unleashing a war on the Korean peninsula any moment, while maintaining its forces in South Korea, pursuing the anachronistic "power politics" still now when the South and the North of Korea have set out on the road of reconciliation and detente.

Lurking behind this is also a sinister intention to create feelings of the crisis of war among the people with large-scale military exercises coercively to stress the necessity to prolong the present military fascist "regime" when the "presidential election" is in the offing and thus to promote the stay in power of the pro-U.S. dictatorial "regime" which is now driven to a catastrophic crisis, the statement says, and stresses:

Hanminjon strongly demands that the United States and the South Korean rulers immediately stop all the reckless war maneuvers including the "Eagle-92" which are bringing dark clouds of war to this land.

LSWYK Statement Views U.S.-ROK Exercises

SK1211045592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0405 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 12 (KCNA)—We will never tolerate the reckless play with fire of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers but sharply watch all their moves with full preparedness, declared the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] in its statement November 11.

The statement brands the large-scale "Hwarang" and "Eagle 92" joint military exercises that began early in November as premeditated actions to block the North-South dialogue and unleash another war against the North, come what may.

The step to postpone the dates of the planned first meetings of the North-South joint committees taken by chairmen of the North side to the committees in their joint statement is entirely justifiable now that the situation on the Korean peninsula has been brought to the highest pitch of strain, the statement stressed, adding:

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities should withdraw by the end of November in whatever form their decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres.

If they continue playing with fire despite our repeated warnings, they will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom, said the statement.

Delegation Returns After DPRK-Japan Talks

SK1111004792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] The DPRK Government delegation led by Yi Sam-no, ambassador of the Foreign Ministry, returned home by plane on 10 November after participating in the eighth round of intergovernmental talks to normalize diplomatic relations between our country and Japan.

Friendship Delegation Returns From PRC 7 Nov

SK1211053592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The DPRK-China Friendship Association delegation led by Chon Yon-ok, vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and vice chairman of the DPRK-China Friendship Association Central Committee, returned home by plane on 7 November after visiting China.

Korean Youths in Japan Condemn Team Spirit

SK1111113892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo November 10 (KNS-KCNA)—The entire Korean youths and students in Japan sharply condemn the step of the United States and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, branding it as an unpardonable criminal act to bring the situation of Korea back to the original state of the cold war era, break up all the inter-Korean dialogues and intentionally block the implementation of the already adopted North-South agreement, said Pak Ku-ho, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, in his talk published on November 9 in support of the decision of the joint meeting of the government, political parties and organizations of the northern half of Korea.

The decision to suspend all dialogues and contacts with the South Korean authorities in case the United States and the South Korean authorities resumed the "Team Spirit" is the most urgent and active step at present to avert the danger of the nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and defend peace in Asia and the rest of the world, he noted.

The United States and the South Korean authorities, he demanded, should discard the anachronistic intention to prop up the colonial military fascist rule in South Korea with the escalation of the confrontation and tension and withdraw at once the attempt to resume the brazen "Team Spirit", he stressed.

ROK-U.S.-Japan Relations 'Dangerous Collusion'

SK1111051892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 11 Nov 92

["Collusion Against Trend of Time"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 11 (KCNA)—The Japanese prime minister and the South Korean ruler had talks in Kyoto on November 8. Contending that the "U.S. role would remain indispensable" in Northeast Asia under the new U.S. Administration, they expressed the expectation that the U.S.-Japan-South Korea "cooperative relations for security" would not change and agreed to continue taking a "definite joint action" of South Korea, Japan and the United States over the socalled "nuclear problem" of the DPRK.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says it is intended to keep the U.S. forces in Asia, particularly in South Korea at any cost and deliberately obstruct a smooth settlement of the nuclear inspection problem in Korea.

The analyst goes on:

Nuclear inspections of the North and the South have not yet been realised, though the peaceful nature and honesty of our nuclear policy have been proved through repeated irregular inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The responsiblity for this fully rests with the U.S. and South Korean authorities who are avoiding an allround inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities, together with the United States, decided to resume the "Team Spirit" nuclear war exercises with outcries over the "nuclear problem", screwing up the tension on the Korean peninsula. Japan brought the eighth talks for the normalization of Korea-Japan diplomatic relations to a rupture under the pretext of the "nuclear problem" and is now staging U.S.- Japan joint military manoeuvres. This is precisely the nature of the "joint action" they mean.

All these moves surrounding the "nuclear problem" are reckless ones aimed at threatening the DPRK militarily and disintegrating and stifling it and a dangerous collusion of the anti-peace forces going against the trend of the time.

The South Korean authorities must not seek confrontation and war against the fellow countrymen in league with outside forces but take a stand of implementing the North-South agreement. And Japan must refrain from obstructing peace and reunification of Korea.

'Pomminryon' Supports Suspension of N-S Dialogue

SK1111040492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2137 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 10 (KCNA)—Kim Chong-su, chairman of the headquarters of Koreans in Japan of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminryon), issued a statement on November 5 supporting the resolution and appeal of a joint meeting of the DPRK Government, political parties and organizations.

He recalled that the joint meeting held in Pyongyang on October 27 decided to suspend all the North-South dialogues and contacts between the authorities in case the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities resumed the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and appealed to all the fellow countrymen, public organizations and bodies at home and abroad to turn out in a nationwide movement for checking and frustrating the new war provocation moves of the domestic and foreign separatists.

He expressed full support to the resolution and appeal of the joint meeting, considering them to be a most positive step of averting the danger of nuclear war and defending peace in Korea and saving the North-South dialogue from the crisis of collapse.

The United States and the South Korean authorities must immediately withdraw their criminal decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises under unreasonable pretexts and fundamentally rectify their Korea policy, a leftover of the cold war era, he said, and stressed:

The Pomminryon headquarters of Koreans in Japan will vigorously conduct a nationwide movement for frustrating and thwarting the criminal attempt to resume the "Team Spirit" and achieving the reunification in the '90s in close unity with all the fellow countrymen in the North and the South and abroad.

Security Planning Board's 'Neutrality' Viewed

SK1211045792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 12 Nov 92

["SPB's Declaration of 'Neutrality' Is Sham"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 12 (KCNA)—The South Korean "Security Planning Board [SPB]" declared "political neutrality" with the "presidential elections" in the offing. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says it is a preposterous jargon reminding us of a wolf promising to eat grass.

The SPB which has earned itself an ill fame as a criminal den of anti-communist plots and fascist suppression is an "almighty tyrant" for the security of the military fascist group's power, the analyst says, and goes on:

With close intelligence networks thrown all over South Korea, it engages itself in surveillance, shadowing and control of every move of patriotic, democratic organizations and conservative opposition politicians. It surprisingly assaults, arrests and totures to death those out of its favor.

The SPB invents "sprying cases" and "plots of rebellion" one after another to stifle forces standing opposed to the military fascist dictatorship.

It employs every conceivable means to help the military fascist group stay in power each time of such crucial political occasions as "presidential elections".

The "case of the Workers' Party of Korea in South Korea" invented by the SPB recently is an anti-communist drama intended to divert the attention of the people elsewhere with its oft-used shock remedy and create a situation favorable to the fascist group in the "elections".

It has kicked up a row, talking about North's "extreme acts" and "possible airliner hijacking". This implies that the SPB will not hesitate to cook up another case of sanguinary political terrorism such as the second "passenger plane incident" in a bid to bridge over the crisis of the military fascist group.

The SPB's declaration of "neutrality" in the "presidential elections" arouses misgivings and derision among the South Korean people. If fair democratic elections are to be held, the SPB, the plot-breeding intelligence center, must be dissolved, says the analyst.

Norodom Sihanouk Arrives in Pyongyang 10 Nov

SK1011120192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 10 (KCNA)—His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, arrived here today by special plane.

He was met at Pyongyang airport by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and officials concerned.

Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi was also present at the airport.

Kim Il-song Receives Nepalese Party Delegation

SK1211110292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang Nov. 12 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song Thursday received a visiting delegation of the Nepali Congress Party headed by former Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Battaray, president of its Central Committee.

Present on the occasion were alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Choe Tae-pok and vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee Song Ho-kyong.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial and friendly talk with the guests.

The guests presented a gift to President Kim Il-song.

President Kim Il-song gave a luncheon for the guests.

South Korea

Students Demonstrate Over Alleged Murder by GI

50 Protest on 10 Nov

SK1111043192 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 11 Nov 92 p 23

[Text] At 1430 on 10 November about 50 Chungang University students demonstrated for about 30 minutes in front of the U.S. Embassy in Sejongno, Chongno-ku, Seoul. They demanded that Private First Class Kenneth Markle (20) of the U.S. Second Division, the suspected murderer of Yi Kum-i, be extradited.

300 Demonstrate 12 Nov

SK1211115292 Seoul YONHAP in English 1142 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—Some 300 students of Korea University demonstrated in downtown Seoul Thursday afternoon in protest against the killing of a Tongduchon woman by an American soldier.

The students demanded the arrest of the culprit, Pfc. Kenneth Markle, and the withdrawal of American forces from Korea. The demonstration lasted about one and half an hours along the main street near Chongno 2-ka, Chongno-ku before they dispersed voluntarily.

In printed materials they distributed to passers-by, the students called for the "regaining of our national dignity trampled down on in the incident" and demanded the revision of "unfair elements" contained in the Status of Forces Agreement and an open apology by U.S. authorities over the incident.

Government Decides To Reduce Size of Team Spirit

SK1111133792 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 11 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] The government has decided to conduct the ROK-U.S. Team Spirit joint military exercise next year as scheduled. It is, however, considering plans to readjust the exercise method and its size.

A Defense Ministry official said on 11 November: Regardless of North Korea's attitude, the Team Spirit exercise will be conducted next year. This is the Defense Ministry's and Joint Chiefs of Staff's consistent policy. This policy has been confirmed in the Joint Chiefs of Staff's recent report "The 1993 Joint Chiefs of Staff's Policy Direction."

The official said: The Team Spirit joint military exercise in 1993 will be held in the following manner. First, the United States will only participate in the command post exercise, which requires a small amount of personnel and military equipment. Second, the ROK Army will only conduct a field training exercise. The government plans to discuss this with the United States.

He also said: If the United States accepts this, the readjustment role between the ROK and the United States in the military exercise can be initially realized. With the ROK's pending regaining of peace time operational control, the ROK is seeking a plan to independently exercise its operational control.

If only the ROK Army conducts the field training exercise during the Team Spirit joint military exercise, we can say this is an appropriate step against the North's call for the cancellation of the ROK-U.S. joint military exercise. The ROK is expected to reduce training expenditures. It has carried a third of the training expense.

Seoul To Strengthen Joint Military Exercises

SK1111024192 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 10 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] Despite North Korea's refusal to hold the North-South joint committee meetings, the government plans to strengthen military preparation as well as ROK-U.S. joint military exercises, which include Team Spirit.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Yi Pil-sop stressed on 9 November: As long as the North retains its present strategy toward the South and as long as it continues the military threat, such as nuclear weapons development, the government will strengthen military security, including ROK-U.S. joint military exercises, in order to deter war on the Korean peninsula.

At the 9 November reception in the Army Hall for officers and men who participated in the "Eagle-92 military exercise," Chairman Yi warned: North Korea is refusing to hold the North-South joint committee meetings and is conducting a malicious propaganda and smear campaign against the South, using an annual defensive exercise as a pretext. Every country's army conducts annual military exercises as part of the right to self-defense. North Korea's refusal to meet is an obsolete act and runs counter to the expectations and aspirations of all fellow countrymen. Its attitude can never be pardoned.

Ministry, Bank Prepare for Clinton Government

SK1211015692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Nov 92 p 10

[Text] The Ministry of Finance [MOF] and the Bank of Korea [BOK] are preparing ways to cope with any possible pressure from the Clinton administration to open the domestic financial market.

Finance Minister Yi Yong-man and Bank of Korea governor Cho Sun met at the Palace Hotel yesterday to discuss how to cope with possible fresh American market-opening pressure, according to Vice Finance Minister Yi Su-hyo, who attended the meeting.

He said the participants formed a broad consensus to sharpen the competitive edge of Korean banks in the shortest period of time. He said, "We shared the view that domestic banks lag behind foreign ones especially in the foreign exchange business."

MOF and BOK agreed to seek ways of helping Korean banks cultivate professional foreign exchange dealers, the vice finance minister said.

It is unusual for the nation's two key policy makers to devote much of their time to discussing issues related to the opening of the financial market, many analysts said.

They speculate that MOF and BOK policy makers appear to have a nervous but positive attitude in liberalizing and opening the financial market in order not to create undue trouble with the new U.S. administration.

Yi Chong-chae, director general for domestic banking affairs at the Finance Ministry, said after the meeting, "Everybody in the financial market, including myself, should change their way of thinking in this changing financial market."

He said Seoul must conduct a flexible monetary policy in this liberalization age. He added that it is no longer possible for Korea to stick to the rigid old-style monetary policy when foreign capital is flowing in an unexpected way due to the opening of the capital market.

Vice Finance Minister Yi said, "President-elect Bill Clinton may push for the implementation of domestic industrial policy. At the same time, his administration may step up pressure on foreign countries to open their markets wider to satisfy expectations of U.S. voters."

In the meeting, Finance Minister Yi and BOK Governor Cho also agreed to make efforts to lower the money market rates in order to create a climate conducive to early implementation of the second- stage of interest rate deregulation.

It was said that Minister Yi and Gov. Cho have not mentioned the possibility of lowering regulated bank lending and deposit rates as well as the rediscount rate of the central bank.

But the Finance Ministry will trim issuing rates of money market instruments and bonds in line with the downward money market rates, Vice Finance Minister Yi said.

Government Seeks Earlier Trade Talks With U.S.

SK1111043392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] The government will try to advance the 14th Korea-U.S. trade ministers talks, originally scheduled for late 1993, to early next year, Minister of Trade and Industry Han Pong-su said yesterday.

It will also call for various bilateral private business forums, including the Korea-U.S. Business Conference and the Korea-U.S. Economic Council, to convene their annual sessions ahead of schedule, while strengthening their functions and roles.

These moves are part of the Seoul government's efforts to drastically step up trade diplomacy with the new U.S. administration of Bill Clinton, Han said at a meet to discuss trade policy, attended by 30 policy advisors representing businesses, research institutions, news media and other related organizations.

Considerable effort will also be made to strengthen cooperative ties with the U.S. Congress and state governments, the trade-industry minister said.

Noting that the U.S. president-elect has declared a strong industrial policy under the government's initiative, Han said that the Seoul government will, in parallel with intensifying trade diplomacy, seek industrial cooperation between the two countries, including joint advances to third countries.

He predicted that the Uruguay Round trade liberalization talks would make progress now that the U.S. presidential election is over.

"The government will do its best to defend its interests and position in agricultural and service sector talks, while being fully prepared for other multilateral trade negotiations, involving environmental regulation, international standards and government supply. [no closing quotation mark as published]

He called for the participants to redouble efforts to improve the nation's international balance of payments, by maximizing last-ditch shipments toward the end of this year.

National Assembly Group To Meet Clinton Team

SK1211111092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1038 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly has decided to send a delegation of five to six legislators to the U.S. early next month for closer cooperation and exchange of opinions on the U.S.-S. Korean policy with the U.S. Congress and President-elect Bill Clinton's power transition team.

The mission will be headed by Chong Chae-mun, chairman of the assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, and will comprise lawmakers of the Democratic Liberal, Democratic, and United People's Parties.

The visitors will attend a seminar to be held on Dec. 7-8 among some U.S. Congressmen under the aegis of the Korean Embassy in Washington and then meet power transition team members.

The embassy is organizing the seminar at the request of National Assembly speaker Pak Chun-kyu.

Consumer Group Says Banned U.S. Pesticides Sold

SK1111064892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0619 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 11 (YONHAP)—U.S. manufacturers of agricultural chemicals are selling products in South Korea that are banned in the United States, a consumer watchdog group charged Wednesday.

The Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection of Korea (CACPK) was tipped off to the inflow of the chemicals by the Pesticide Action Network (PAN), a CACPK spokeswoman said.

PAN, formed in 1982, is an international organization that exchanges information on agricultural chemicals with 300 member organizations in 50 countries.

It recently obtained a report by the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee revealing that seven unregistered and proscribed pesticides, containing such toxins as dicofol and carbosulfan, were among the 3,000 tons of U.S. agricultural chemicals exported to Korea in 1990.

These chemicals that are banned in America are used to make 11 kinds of insecticides and herbicides in Korea and then sold to unsuspecting Korean farmers, the spokeswoman said.

Cultural Cooperation Pact With Russia Approved

SK1211090092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—The cabinet approved an agreement on cultural cooperation with Russia on Thursday.

The agreement, consisting of a preamble and 23 articles, cover cooperation in the fields of culture, science, education, information and sports, and takes effect 30 days after it is signed, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The two countries will sign the accord on Nov. 20 when President Boris Yeltsin will be on a visit to Korea.

ROK-Russia Economic Cooperation Panel Planned

SK1111041292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Nov 92 p 9

[Text] A bilateral economic cooperation committee between Korea and Russia will be officially inaugurated next week in time with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Korea.

The two countries will also sign a deal to jointly develop natural gas in the Sakha (formerly Yakut) autonomous republic and construct a gas pipeline network that would go through North Korea to reach South Korea and Japan.

Economic issues will top the agenda of the first Korea-Russia summit next week, an official at the Economic Planning Board [EPB] said yesterday.

The tentatively-named Korea-Russia Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation will deal with a broad range of bilateral economic issues, he said.

Deputy Premier-Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu will head the Korean side of the committee while Aleksandr N. Shokin, deputy premier in charge of foreign economic affairs, will represent the Russian side.

The establishment of the joint committee was agreed upon last January but its actual creation has been delayed due to the political unrest in Russia.

Korea and Russia will take turns hosting the annual meeting of the joint committee in each other's capital.

Russia hoped that the inaugural meeting will be held within this year but Korea plans to put off the inaugural meeting until after the new government is initiated in Korea, the EPB said.

The EPB said there will be extensive discussions as to the development of natural gas in the Sakha republic. A consortium of nine Korean companies has already been formed to undertake the natural gas development project estimated to cost about 15 billion dollars.

They include Korea Petroleum Development Corp., Korea Gas Corp., Samsung, Yukong and Pohang Iron and Steel Co.

An EPB official said it would take at least two to three years to conduct a feasibility study of the natural gas development project and actual production will be possible in the 21st century.

The two countries will also discuss ways of promoting bilateral cooperation in Russia's ambitious programs to convert military plants into consumer goods factories.

Previously, the Russian government had proposed 29 projects for possible areas of economic cooperation with Korean businesses. These projects include aviation, machinery and precision equipment in which Korean companies lack advanced technical know-how.

It is learned that Korea and Russia are also seeking to enhance cooperation in the field of defense industry.

In the meantime, a group of Russian businessmen will visit here next week on the occasion of President Yeltsin's visit to discuss economic cooperation with Korean companies.

Trade Group Says Investment in CIS 'Dried Up'

SK1111035592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0102 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 11 (YONHAP)—Investment in the former Soviet republics has completely dried up due to the political turmoil in the region, sources at the Bank of Korea and the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said Wednesday.

Korean companies sought permission to make 11 investments of 7 million U.S. dollars in the first half of the year, of which just six worth 2 million dollars were ever followed through on. There were no applications or permits for investment in July-September, the sources said.

Korean companies are reluctant to invest in the region because of the political instability and slow pace of capitalist reforms, they said.

Great expectations are pinned on the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, slated for Nov. 18, as he will be bringing a considerable number of businessmen with him to Korea.

The government has given permits to 26 investments in the former Soviet republics as of the end of September since Seoul and Moscow set up trade representative offices in 1989, but seven of them went unrealized and many others are said to be waiting for something to happen after supplying part of the funds.

Except for Hyundai Co.'s investment of 16 million dollars in a lumber operation, most investments were for between 50,000 dollars and 1 million dollars.

Korea put 480,000 dollars into two investments in 1989, 16.3 million dollars into three in 1990, and 2.33 million dollars into seven in 1991.

Korean exports to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) recorded 340 million dollars in the first nine months of the year, up 25.3 percent from the same period last year, while imports rose 2.3 percent to 423.6 million dollars.

Korea piled up a trade surplus of 48 million dollars with CIS a year earlier on exports of 625 million dollars and imports of 577 million dollars.

Firms Urged To Change PRC Investment Patterns

SK1111065992 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 9 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] It appears as though domestic businesses should change their investment patterns in China.

ROK businesses produce labor-intensive products in China by taking advantage of its low wages and then exporting the products. Recently they have been increasing investment in China in this way. However, Chinese wages are rising and its labor-intensive industries are developing rapidly. Therefore, it is noted that domestic businesses should pay more attention to investing in the production of technology-intensive high-priced articles and to their advancement into the Chinese domestic market.

A development bureau official of Yingkou city, who is concerned with ROK investment businesses, said: "Suppose that 200 yuan [one yuan is equivalent to 150 Korean won] is paid to a worker as a monthly salary. Twenty-five percent of the per-head salary paid is added to the salary as a welfare fund, 1 percent as labor union fee, 20 percent as housing allowance, and others are also added as required. This means that the actual wage is equivalent to $70 or 420 yuan. As a result, wages inevitably turn out to become higher and higher." He revealed that a low-wage scale, which has been an advantage for investment in China, is vanishing.

At the same time, foreign businesses find it more difficult to make inroads into the Chinese domestic markets with labor-intensive articles, including garments, as target, while they find it easier to do so with technology-intensive articles.

The Chinese Government adopted this year a policy of opening its market for technology-intensive industries. Under this policy, the Chinese Government reserves its domestic market for Chinese local businesses producing such articles in order to protect its industries that are capable of producing general articles on their own to some degree, while it opened more widely its local market to induce investment in capital-technology-intensive industries.

In response to this policy, Japan built an $80-million antenna plant and a $190-million cement plant in Dalian, and other advanced countries made inroads into the heavy industrial sector. In the meantime, we are concerned that ROK businesses could be driven out by Chinese businesses producing labor-intensive articles, eventually losing their foothold in the Chinese market, because their investments are concentrated on labor-intensive industries and technology-intensive industries are consequently preempted by others.

In particular, our products fail to draw the consumers' attention because our products are perceived in China as cheap but not as the best quality items. Therefore, the further advancement of our technology-intensive articles into the Chinese market is required.

PRC, ROK Papers To Exchange Reporters

SK1211084492 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 12 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] A group of reporters from RENMIN RIBAO, an organ of the CPC, will visit the ROK late this month at the invitation of CHOSON ILBO. On 11 November, RENMIN RIBAO informed CHOSON ILBO that it will send a group of reporters in accordance with an exchange program between RENMIN RIBAO and CHOSON ILBO. This will be the first time for RENMIN RIBAO to send its reporters to Seoul since the establishment of ROK-PRC diplomatic relations.

The list of reporters provided by RENMIN RIBAO to CHOSON ILBO includes group leader Li Yunfei, vice director of the international department; Xu Baokang, editor of the international department (same level as senior reporter); two reporters each from the economic department and the editorial department for overseas editions; and a cameraman from the photo department.

RENMIN RIBAO said that its visiting reporters delegation will collect materials from Seoul and local areas of the ROK under the guidance of CHOSON ILBO—its cooperation partner. CHOSON ILBO will explain the ROK to China in detail to help the people of the two countries better understand each other in the aftermath of normalization of ROK-China diplomatic relations.

China Edging ROK From World Trade Markets

SK1211030292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0146 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea is being edged out of world markets by China, which exported more than Korea for the first time last year, the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said Thursday.

China led Korea in June, August, September and October, and will hold 11th place in world trade soon, KFTA said. Korea was 11th in world trade performance behind Canada, Belgium and Hong Kong last year. China ranked 14th.

China's two-way trade increased from 14.5 billion U.S. dollars in June to 14.8 billion dollars in October, while Korea's remained at 14.3 billion dollars.

In 1991, China was behind Korea by 17.7 billion dollars, but in the first 10 months of this year, the gap narrowed to 6.74 billion dollars. Noteworthy is that China was ahead of Korea by 3.37 billion dollars during the July-October period.

According to officials at the Trade and Industry Ministry, Korean products are being pulled from shelves not only in America but also in Europe due to this tidal wave of Chinese goods.

In the first half, Korean exports to Germany grew 3 percent to 2.72 billion Deutsche marks [Dms] and Chinese exports grew 6.5 percent to 5.77 billion Dms, they said.

Of 11 major Korean exports to France, seven were outshone by Chinese products. Exports of the 11 in January-June totaled 285 million dollars, compared with China's 434 million dollars.

Korea was defeated in steel, ships, plastic goods, containers, metal products and precision machinery.

In particular, China sold 171.5 million dollars of toys and dolls, and became the largest exporter of those items to France, but Korea stuck at 30.3 million dollars.

Seoul, Tokyo To Cooperate at Uruguay Round

SK0711102592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] South Korea and Japan have agreed to cooperate closely at the Uruguay Round [UR] talks and to take joint steps against probable protectionist moves by world economic blocs such as the EC and NAFTA. [North American Free Trade Agreement]

The two sides viewed that the deadlock of UR talks caused by disputes between the United States and the European Community over farm subsidies could be broken if U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton is willing to conclude them successfully.

The opinion was forwarded at a one-day talk between Hong Chung-pyo, director general for the Korean Foreign Ministry's international trade, and his Japanese counterpart Okura Kazuo in Seoul Thursday.

The two officials were of the opinion that the Uruguay Round talks will hardly end successfully by the end of this year as the two superpowers have been waging a tough tug-of-war.

They shared the view that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) will help ease protectionist moves by the EC and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), agreeing on the need for development the APEC as a regional body.

Kazuo expressed support for an APEC summit "In principle, we have no objections to a summit talk proposed by Australia," the Japanese official was quoted as saying.

The two sides expressed concern about probable discrimination against non-NAFTA nations in investment and other services. NAFTA is not in violation of the GATT in principle, but GATT regulations have no binding force when it comes to intellectual property rights and other services.

Kazuo also promised that Japan will fully reflect Seoul's position at the G-7 summit talks slated for July of next year in Tokyo.

Kazuo also welcomed the projected entry of Korea into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Seoul has already informed the OECD headquarters of its intention to join the body of 24-member advanced economies by 1996.

Agreement With Japan Not To 'Undermine' Ties

SK1011022292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0113 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan agreed Sunday that they would not take any action that might undermine bilateral relations on the Kuril Islands territorial dispute and the North Korean nuclear issue, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Monday.

They agreed that Korea would not take part in any joint ventures involving the Kuril Islands, and Japan would not bypass Seoul regarding North Korea's nuclear development program, Watanabe told his Liberal Democratic Party support organization in a lecture.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN reported that the part on South Korea not participating in Kuril Islands joint ventures was a check against a Seoul-Moscow fisheries agreement and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Seoul on Nov. 18-20.

The part on North Korean nuclear suspicion was a Japanese promise that it will not make an independent judgement on whether the suspicion is dissolved until the two Koreas agree on inter-Korean simultaneous nuclear inspection, ASAHI said.

Exim Bank To Open Office in SRV

SK0711093492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0723 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 7 (YONHAP)—The Export and Import [Exim] Bank of Korea will open a representative office in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Monday, an Exim Bank spokesman said Saturday.

The office will be the first of its kind for South Korean banks since the end of the Vietnam war.

Yi Kwang-su, president of the Exim Bank, will attend the opening ceremony for the representative office manned by two Korean delegates and one Vietnamese, he said.

Among other things, the office is to gather the economic information such as the investment environment in Vietnam to help the Korean companies operating there.

ROK, EC Make Reciprocal Adjustments on Imports

SK1211042192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—The European Community agreed Wednesday to remove residual import restrictions on South Korean products in January 1993 and extend Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits to the end of 1993, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

Korea in turn recognized retroactive intellectual property rights for half of the pharmaceutical and agricultural pesticide products that the EC had requested and agreed to negotiations on telecommunications market opening.

The agreements came in working-level talks preceding the eighth Korea-EC ministerial consultations in Brussels.

Ho Sung, assistant foreign minister, led the talks with Gianluizi Giola, deputy director-general of external relations of the EC Commission.

GSP extension will bring Korea some 150 million U.S. dollars through increased imports, and the removal of import restrictions will open the way for Korean television sets, radios and textiles among others.

Korea explained it reviewed 276 intellectual property items EC proposed, comprising 234 pharmaceutical products and 42 agricultural chemicals, and decided to give retroactive protection to 138 of them.

The EC demanded the same level of Korean telecommunications market opening as was given the United States, and Seoul agreed to open negotiations.

Korea opened its value-added-network (VAN) to more than 50 percent U.S. investment early this year.

The EC also demanded wider access by its banks, insurance and securities companies.

Seoul asked the EC to be prudent in making anti-dumping charges against Korean products and proposed better cooperation among small- and medium-sized industries.

Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok will attend the ministerial consultation with Frans Andriessen, vice president of the EC commission, Thursday to make the agreements final.

Foreign Minister Meets Australian Counterpart

SK0611022592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and his Australian counterpart Gareth Evans exchanged opinions of mutual concerns when the latter visited Yi's office yesterday.

Evans came to Seoul yesterday to open Promotion Australia '92 which will continue in Seoul and Pusan by Nov. 15 [as published]. Australia will provide a variety of events.

Businessmen Discuss Cooperation With Australia

SK0711064692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Nov 92 p 17

[Text] Korea and Australia have agreed to promote joint collaboration in third country markets such as Vietnam, the Russian Far East and Southeast Asia. They have also concurred to expand industrial scientific and technological cooperation.

These agreements were reached in the 14th conference of the Korea-Australia Business Council held at Shilla Hotel yesterday. Om Yong-ki, chairman of the Korean side, headed a 110-member Korean business delegation to the conference, while his Australian counterpart Roger Marshall led his country's 80-member team.

During the meeting, the Korean side called upon Australia to be more considerate in the imposition of anti-dumping measures against Korean-made products.

They said that frequent anti-dumping allegations against Korean companies will be detrimental to the fostering of closer economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

In the meantime, the Australian delegation said that Korea should make further progress in the liberalization of the agricultural sector, particularly in the areas of feed barley, dairy products, fruit and vegetables.

The two sides agreed to cooperate for the successful conclusion of the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

But they emphasized that the final outcome should fairly reflect the concerns of both developed and developing countries.

Reviewing the recent development of the world economic system, they expressed the hope that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) should not impede trade and investment in the region by outsiders.

They also agreed that the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PEBC) should be developed into a leading forum for private sector's economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Israel Offers Aid If North Ends Scud Sales

SK1211083292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—Israel has offered North Korea extensive economic cooperation if it will stop selling its Scud missiles in the Middle East, officials here said Thursday.

Israeli Ambassador Asher Na'im had confirmed that Eitan Bentzur, deputy director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's North America-Nuclear bureau, went to Pyongyang earlier this month, they said.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry called in Na'im on Tuesday for an explanation of reports that Israel and North Korea had discussed diplomatic normalization during Bentzur's visit.

Na'im denied that they talked about diplomatic relations but said Israel urged North Korea to halt its missile sales to the Middle East in exchange for economic cooperation, the officials said.

"North Korea apparently held off any diplomatic normalization talks, aware of its strong military ties and arms export benefits with the Arab world," a ministry official said.

"We have asked that Israel consult us fully before making any moves with North Korea. We were told Washington has done the same," the official said.

North Korean Grain Harvest Said To Fall Short

SK1211040892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—North Korea's grain harvest was 4.43 million tons last year, or 2 million tons short of cereal demand this year, the Rural Development Administration said Thursday.

North Korea had estimated this year's grain demand at 6.5 million tons.

Rice and corn crops, which accounted for 85 percent of the total harvest, stood at 1.64 million tons and 2.12 million tons, respectively.

This comes on top of an already serious food shortage.

North Korea's poor harvest was primarily due to the failure of pest controls since 1988 resulting from shortages of agricultural chemicals, administration officials said.

Corn production was poor for the same reason, they said.

Construction of expressways and dams reduced North Korea's arable land to 1.97 million hectares from 1990, they added.

By comparison, South Korea had 2.09 million hectares of arable land and a cereal harvest of 6.29 million tons in 1991.

Presidential Election Set for 18 December

SK1111105992 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 11 Nov 92

[By reporter Kim Hong]

[Text] At a cabinet meeting tomorrow morning, the government will decide that 18 December will be a temporary holiday for the presidential election. It will also formally announce on 20 November the date of the presidential election.

In connection with this, Home Minister Paek Kwang-hyon reported the date of the presidential election to Prime Minister Hyon Sung- chong, and First State Minister Kim Tong-ik informed all the political parties of the date which the government has decided on.

A high-ranking government source said that the government has decided to hold the presidential election on 18 December after considering the dates for the college entrance examinations and the North-South high-level talks.

When the date of the presidential election is announced on 20 November, presidential candidates must register their candidacy in five days and can then begin their 28-day campaign.

Prime Minister Hyong Sung-chong is exchanging views on the presidential election with the three parties' election campaign committee chairmen at the prime ministerial mansion in Samchong-tong. It was learned that the prime minister would explain the government's will to hold a fair election and ask them to immediately stop the parties' illegal early election campaigning.

It was also learned that Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong plans to say that anyone involved in illegal campaigning will be punished and that if candidates are involved in illegal campaigning, they will also be punished.

President No Tae-u will invite the three parties' presidential candidates—the Democratic Liberal Party president Kim Yong-sam, Democratic Party co-chairman Kim Tae-chung, and United People's Party president Chong Chu-yong; Pak Chun-kyu, speaker of the National Assembly; Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu; and Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong to Chongwadae on the morning of 18 November, to again express his resolve to hold a fair presidential election, and ask them to cooperate in his efforts.

Date Not 'Unanimously Welcomed'

SK1211033292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0236 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—South Koreans will go to polls on Dec. 18 to select next president and official campaigning will begin on Nov. 20 for a 28-day run.

The decision was the first major action taken by Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong, who was appointed by President No Tae-u a month ago to lead a "politically neutral" cabinet to undertake a clean and fair election.

The choice of Dec. 18 as election day was by no means unanimously welcomed by the three major political parties, sources say.

Government officials were at pains Thursday to clarify that, unlike the past, the government did not directly consult with political parties, nor accept any request from any presidential candidate.

Under the law, the presidential election has to be held between Dec. 15 and Jan. 14, or 70 to 40 days before the end of the president's term. And there had not been any objection from any segment of society to holding the election between Dec. 15 and 18, government sources said.

The government arrived at Dec. 18 because weekends were ruled out, an inter-Korean prime ministers' conference is scheduled between Dec. 21 and 24 and university entrance examinations are to be held Dec. 22.

These events are to be followed by Christmas and New Year's holidays. With the people in a festive mood, the government determined that the year-end and January were inappropriate for the election. That left the period between Dec. 15 and 18.

Both the Democratic Liberal Party and the United People's Party indicated that either Tuesday the 15th or Friday the 18th were good, whereas the Democratic Party insisted on Dec. 17 because it hoped for a better voter-turnout for the party, sources said.

First, the government and political parties ruled out Dec. 16, because no presidential election has ever been held on a Wednesday and because the polling day for the previous presidential election was Dec. 16, on which day Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung were beaten by President No. Both the Democratic Liberal Party and the Democratic Party did not like that date.

That left Dec. 17 or Dec. 18, and the government settled on Dec. 18 for the simple reason that it meant one more day to get ready, the sources said.

The Democratic Party was understood to have objected because the nation has never held a presidential election on a Friday and because a Friday leads into the weekend and five-day-a-week workers and young people tend to leave their homes on weekend trips. The progressive Democratic Party believes its strength lies among younger voters.

The government pointed out, however, that there are few companies or organizations that have five-day work weeks and most offices are open on Saturdays. Besides, it argued, young people, especially university students, are already on winter vacation and therefore a claim that many of them leave on weekend trips is unreasonable, the sources said.

Premier Threatens To Resign if Date Questioned

SK1211091192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—Hyon Sung-chong has threatened to resign as prime minister "even today" if a political party dares complain about his cabinet's choice of the presidential election date.

Hyon made the threat to a group of senior Democratic Party [DP] officials who called on him Thursday to protest that the choice of Friday, Dec. 18, made them suspect the cabinet's neutrality.

The Democratic Party says a Friday is a bad day to hold an election because lots of people, especially young voters, take the day off and go on three-day weekend trips. The Democratic Party believe its strength lies in young voters.

Hyon told them it was impossible to change the date after the cabinet had decided on it.

In any event, Hyon said, he had instructed government officials to make sure that voter turnout was no lower than in any other election.

—The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] denied Thursday that Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong and his cabinet picked Dec. 18 for election day to please the majority party.

Pak Hui-tae, party spokesman, said: "The position of our party had been that any day between Dec. 15 and 18 was fine."

—Kim Yong-sam, president and presidential candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party, was happy Thursday when three lawmakers from the Democratic Party joined the DLP.

Reps. Yim Chun-won, Song Chon-yong and Pak Kyu-sik were accompanied in their move by Kim Hyon-kyu, a former member of the DP Supreme Council, and Kim No-sik, a former DP lawmaker.

Kim Yong-sam was particularly happy because Yim, a three-term lawmaker from a Seoul district, left the Democratic Party over a dispute with DP leader Kim Tae-chung.

Candidates Continue Making Campaign Promises

SK1211022392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Nov 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Han Tong-su]

[Text] Presidential candidates of the three major parties continued barnstorming yesterday, churning out promises aimed at specific interest and religious groups.

Kim Yong-sam, presidential nominee of the majority Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), promised that his party will set up an advisory council on religious policies to guarantee religious freedom and equal treatment of every religion.

In a speech at a panel discussion hosted by the Buddhist Journalists Association yesterday, Kim said that he would consider revising various laws regulating the proper exercise of property rights by Buddhist temples.

Kim, a devout protestant himself, said, "I know well that our traditional religions, Buddhism in particular, suffered setback in the modern Korean history due to advance of Western culture and religions, and wrong religious policies of the past administration."

Kim said, if elected president, he will treat all religions equally and accept "constructive" proposals forwarded by each religion.

"It is my long-held religious view that if my religion is precious to me so are other religions to their believers," Kim said.

His courtship directed at Buddhist voters was well manifested during his recent tour to southern port city of Pusan by his pledge that he will allow the establishment of a Buddhist broadcasting firm in the area. Kim has sour memories of the Buddhists' overwhelming support for the ruling party candidate No Tae-u, an alleged Buddhist, in the 1987 presidential election.

Saying that the tenets of Buddhism are similar to his thoughts, Kim urged Buddhists to help him cure what he termed the "Korean maladies" and construct a "New Korea."

Before the meeting with Buddhist leaders, Kim participated in a rally for organizing the DLP district chapter in Chongno-ku, downtown Seoul, in which Yi Myong-pak, former president of Hyundai Construction Co., was elected the chapter chairman.

In the rally, Kim promised that he will lift various urban planning and construction regulations for houses near Chongwadae, a presidential mansion located in the ward.

Kim Tae-chung, presidential candidate of the major opposition Democratic Party [DP], said yesterday people should block the DLP's taking power in the December presidential election by all means because it will be nothing but a prolongation of the military rule of the past 31 years. The DLP was born in 1990 as a result of the merger of Kim Yong-sam-led opposition Reunification Democratic Party, No's Democratic Justice Party and Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party. Kim Chong-pil and No were masterminds of the military coups in 1961 and 1980, respectively.

In a forum sponsored by the Korea Democratic Youth Federation in Seoul, Kim said, "The real power change from the military to civilian governments can only be materialized through the DP's victory in the next presidential election."

Kim demanded absolute support from youths as they are the "main driving force" for a change in history, citing the victory of Bill Clinton which Kim claimed was made possible by overwhelming support from the young generation.

Reporting an allegation that the two Kims—Kim Tae-chung and his archrival Kim Yong-sam—are responsible for the current Korean crisis, Kim differentiated himself from the other Kim by saying that he had never changed his belief or position during his 40-year struggle against the dictatorship and favoritism-dominated economy.

Chong Chu-yong, presidential candidate of the minor opposition United People's Party (UPP), said yesterday he will accommodate some politicians' demand, if elected president, for the parliamentary cabinet system.

Attending a forum of youths at the Christian Hall in downtown Seoul, Chong said, "I think the parliamentary cabinet system is desirable for the political development of our nation. If elected president, I will positively consider revising the Constitution to that effect. I think the parliamentary cabinet and multi-seat parliamentary constituency systems are necessary to expand the youths' opportunity to participate in politics," Chong said.

The founder of Hyundai Group held a series of meetings with senior educators, representatives of women's organizations and wounded war vets yesterday.

The septuagenarian political novice also held a party for former sportsmen aged 70 or more at the Olympic Hall in southern Seoul and asked for their support in the upcoming election.

PM Asks Cooperation for Better Voter Turnout

SK1211041992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong told cabinet ministers Thursday to give administrative guidance to all affiliated organizations and businesses to make sure they don't give their employees an extra day off on the day after the presidential election.

The cabinet designated Friday Dec. 18 election day, a public holiday, and is worried about low voter turnout.

"There is concern in some quarters that voter turnout will decline if businesses take a three-day weekend," Hyon told the cabinet.

Information Minister Yu Hyok-in said Hyon had said that "as Dec. 19 is a working day, there will be no big problem."

Paper Warns 'Hard Times' May Be Ahead

SK1011041492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Nov 92 p 9

[By economic editor Pak Chang-sok; "News in Review"]

[Text] Does there come an economic battle among America, Europe, and Japan as foreseen by Thurow? This has remained an unanswered question until some time ago. But most recently, the war scenario by MIT's [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] Prof. Lester Thurow seems to have become a reality. After the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the implosion of the former Soviet Union, the Cold War has ended and immediately, a new economic struggle has begun. The trade war may be first touched off by three economic superpowers, each playing the game of capitalism in a strikingly different manner, Thurow predicted in his book "Head to Head."

The world situation has been rapidly turning around enough to see an immediate trade war. A possible breakup of the multilateral Uruguay Round talks on free world trade and emergence of a more protectionist-inclined U.S. administration under Clinton are two major factors amplifying global fears over the specter of trade war. The U.S. and Europe moved closer to a trade war as the U.S. placed stiff tariffs on European products and angered Europeans are voicing an eye-for-an eye, a tooth-for-a tooth counter blow.

In a nutshell, the world market has been moving toward more protectionism and regionalism, which will no doubt entail higher barriers in trade. Damages caused from the blocking of free trade will be serious for resource-poor nations like Korea. It is not too much to say that Korea lives on trade.

If six-year-old tortuous Uruguay Round talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) come to a rupture, Korea faces unbearable difficulties. A likelihood is the devastating blow to exports and pressure for market opening which is likely to come not on multilaterally-negotiable terms but on bilateralism ones.

In other words, Korea has to hold uphill negotiations on overall issues with all trading partners on a bilateral basis, not in a lump. To be seriously affected in the Uruguay Round talks are finance, government procurement, labor market, protection of intellectual property rights, and opening of the rice market. As to the opening of the rice market, for instance, Korea should hold talks individually with all rice exporters in case the Uruguay Round negotiations fail. The American pressure may be particularly intensifying in that Clinton is a native of Arkansas, one of the major grain-producing states.

A business survey showed that more than one-fifth of goods Korea exported to the United States have already faced various restrictions including to levy of high anti-dumping duties. The American trade stick may be stronger upon the inauguration of the Clinton administration in January next year. Clinton says he avoids protectionism but responds to other nations doing unfair trading practices and protect America's interests. He supports Section 301 of the Omnibus Trade Act requiring the U.S. to take retaliatory actions against countries doing unfair trade practices.

Making the matter worse is the ever-weakening competitiveness of Korean products, compared with other rival counterparts. A central bank survey revealed that Korean exports to economically advanced countries have sharply dropped for the past few years largely due to the weak competitiveness in terms of prices and quality. In sharp contrast, Korea's Asian rivals including Taiwan, China, and Thailand have been showing an impressive growth in exports to the U.S., Japan, and Europe, driving it out of its three major markets. The ratio of Korean exports to advanced nations against the total overseas sales has kept falling from 76.2 percent during 1986-1988 to 68.2 percent during 1989-1991 and to 56.7 percent for the first nine months of this year, according to a survey compiled by the Bank of Korea.

Let's take a look at what's going on with Korea in the throes of global trade turmoils? Contrary to the world trend, public eyes are now being centered on politics, exactly on the year-end presidential election. What makes the people more discouraging is the ensuing disclosure of numerous sugarcoated electoral pledges by presidential candidates. Hundreds of policy programs have been announced by the three major presidential contenders obviously for paying lip service to the voters. Government budget planners derisively say that tens of trillions of won may be required to translate into action electoral programs related to public works, education and farming development.

Korea will be able to join the column of advanced countries with per capita income of 15,000 to 20,000 U.S. dollars in a couple of years only if the candidates's pledges are put into practice as promised. They also promise price stability of 2 to 3 percent and transition of the trade account to a surplus.

We hope that a "paradise" may be built on this land in a few years as the ambitious presidential contenders vow. But it is a pity that the world is not always going to assure a rosy future of Korea. Rather hard times may take hold ahead of Korea. There will be no clear winners in the looming trade war but losers will find it hard to survive. Americans have opted for change after the end of Cold War. What will Koreans choose to win in the economic battle?

Nation 'Unlikely' To Open Rice Market

SK1111041492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Nov 92 p 9

[By Chang Su-yong]

[Text] As trade war looms between the United States and Europe, one market here is sitting snug within its protective barriers.

Korea, a signatory of the GATT, is unlikely to open its rice market as long as a conclusion to the Uruguay Round agreements remains elusive.

The majority Democratic Liberal Party, in its campaign pledge for the upcoming presidential election, has promised not to import rice and vowed to invest 42 trillion won for structural reforms in farming and fishing communities.

Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong maintains that the government has no plans to import rice in view of the non-trade role of agriculture, namely food security.

The Korean rice market is a two tier system in which the government purchases about 20 percent of the annual rice produced domestically and then sells it to the public lower than the purchase price. Government officials say it is to ensure stable process for the public and achieve self-sufficiency in rice.

The government has decided to buy approximately 1.2 million tons of rice this year at 125,170 won per 80 kilogram, a price 5 percent higher than last year.

But some figures show that the government's involvement in the rice market may be self defeating. Last year alone, rice stockpiles cost the public 1.05 trillion won, and was sold at a price two to five times the world market price.

The rural population has been declining at a rate of 4.7 percent per year, totaling 15.3 percent in the last decade, with 28.8 percent and 45.6 percent for 1980 and 1970, respectively.

The farming population fell from 8,180,000 to 6,661,000 in 1986 to 1990, decreasing the average members of a farming household figure from 4.42 to 3.77 persons in the same period.

Yet, the area used as paddy land increased 20,348 hectares, and the amount of rice produced went from 6,922 to 7,470 metric tons in 1986 to 1990. Approximately 85 percent of all agricultural production in Korea is rice.

The committed drive to resurrect the ailing rural sector in the face of ever expanding industrialization can be explained two ways—emotionally and politically, though the latter is not as apparent.

Agriculture has a long legacy as the core of Korea's economy. It is a respected occupation, and many urban dwellers still have family ties in rural areas.

The average farming household in 1990 made 4,380,193 won ($5,545) in gross receipts from rice alone. Often these households, comprising an increasingly older generation, are supplemented in income by relatives in the cities.

Government subsidizing, the cost of which is borne by the urban population, is viewed as a way of indirectly easing filial and financial responsibilities to poorer relations back on the farm.

The argument for self-sufficiency in a staple crop for reasons of national defense is also an emotional one.

The rice market will inevitably open in the future, and the merchantilist logic inherent in the argument is incompatible with Korea's world market orientation.

Politically, farmers are better represented in the government than most other interest groups because of direct links to government agencies and over representation in the parliament.

Organized lobbying groups such as the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation work closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Agriculture-Forestry-Fisheries Ministry.

Voting districts are outdated and do not account for the population outflow from rural areas. One vote in the legislature represents fewer voters from rural areas than urban ones.

Political parties still try to capitalize on Korea's outdated voting districts. Rural areas have traditionally voted for the party in authority, and opposition parties try to outbid the ruling party to win those districts over.

The largest opposition Democratic Party recently proposed creating a 10-year plan to revive the rural economy and pressed to set aside ten percent of the annual government budget for agricultural investment, although much of the party's support comes from urban areas.

Korea plans to open its agriculture industry step-by-step, largely in response to the Uruguay Round agreements, and the rice market is certain to be the last to open.

Changes are to include capital investment to mechanize farms, a shift from rice production to cash crops for competitiveness and continued public financing for farming households.

Overseas Construction 'Windfall' Expected

SK1211055292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0527 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—A Democrat in the White House and progress in the Uruguay Round trade negotiations will bring South Korean construction companies a windfall in overseas markets, a Korean Government report predicts.

"Impact of the Clinton Administration on Korean Construction Projects Overseas," obtained from the Construction Ministry Thursday, says that President-elect Bill Clinton will put top priority on rejuvenating the U.S. economy and on mending relations with Libya, Iraq and Vietnam.

To spur employment and competitiveness, he will slash military spending and raise taxes so the government can spend 280 billion dollars on building high-speed railways, roads and houses over the next four years.

Korean construction firms will share in the orders, the report anticipates.

Libya has adopted a comparatively conciliatory policy toward Washington recently, and is trying to mend ties with the shift of power, and the United Nations is expected to lift its economic sanctions on Libya.

As a consequence, Libya is expected to expedite contracts for two power plants (worth 2.2 billion dollars) that were postponed early this year and to push ahead with construction projects on which Korean firms will be allowed to bid.

If Iraq attempts to improve relations with the United States and the U.N. sanctions are lifted so it can resume exporting oil, the country is expected to pursue rehabilitation projects valued at 250 billion dollars, the report says.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will begin beefing up their military facilities to fill the vacuum left by the withdrawal of U.S. Forces and to reinforce their oil industries and their social overhead facilities, providing an opportunity for Korean firms to recover from a long retreat.

Korean firms may take also advantage of improvements in U.S.-Vietnam relations, the report says.

As the Uruguay Round negotiations may be settled at an early date by U.S. pressure on other countries to create more jobs for Americans and rejuvenate the U.S. economy, the U.S. and Southeast Asian construction markets will open to foreign firms.

The report concludes that the new U.S. Government will have a generally positive impact on Korean construction companies, and if they seize the chance they may have a second golden period like the 1970s, when they were active in the Middle East.

Economic Growth Falls Below 5% in Third Quarter

SK1211090492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0802 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—Economic growth sank below 5 percent in the third quarter from 6 percent in April-June, according to preliminary figures released by the Bank of Korea (BOK) Thursday.

Fixed investment posted zero growth in over a year earlier, compared with 0.1 percent and 6.2 percent increases in the first two quarters.

Manufacturing output in July-September rose 2.9 percent, off from 8.6 percent the previous quarter, and factories were operating at 76.5 percent of capacity, down from 79.9 percent a quarter earlier.

A lull in consumption in the private sector and dull growth in construction and facility investment, boosting inventories, were the main contributors to low growth of manufacturing output.

Combined wholesale and retail sales rose 3.9 percent in the third quarter, down from 5.4 percent a quarter earlier, and warehouse releases of consumption goods, up an average 10 percent every quarter since 1990, shrank 4.5 percent.

Warehouse releases of machinery for domestic use constricted 3.8 percent in the quarter and imports of machinery continued to drop for the second quarter.

Construction investment was expected to record minus growth in July-September from a year earlier as government restraints were extended and real estate transaction was in the doldrums.

Domestic consumption is anticipated to perk up in the final quarter, but a remarkable recovery is unlikely, a BOK official said.

Government To Push Down Market Interest Rates

SK1111085592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0824 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 11 (YONHAP)—Finance Minister Yi Yong-man and Central Bank Governor Cho Sun agreed Wednesday to push market interest rates down in preparation for Phase II of financial market liberalization.

They also agreed to manage the money supply elastically so as not to overly influence market interest rates.

In a two-hour long meeting over breakfast with their aides, Yi and Cho did not discuss lowering the Bank of Korea's rediscount rate, or the lending and savings rates of commercial banks.

The two top financial policy-makers agreed to make further efforts to hold down rates of monetary and corporate bonds as they influence market interest rates.

Yi and Cho expressed concern about the rapid inflow of hot money onto the stock exchange as it hinders management of the money supply (M2).

They agreed that M2 growth should be sustained at 18.5 percent this year, as originally targeted, and that inducement of foreign loans should be delayed as far as possible.

They decided to try to give medium- and small-sized manufacturing enterprises easy access to bank loans.

M2 management next year will be discussed after the figures for gross national product in the third quarter are released.

They also exchanged views on the expected financial policies of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton.

Exporters Fear 'Blow' From U.S.-EC Trade War

SK0811053692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Nov 92 p 9

[Text] The looming trade war between the United States and the 12-member European Community is likely to deal a severe blow to Korea's exports to its two major markets.

The U.S. decision to impose heavy retaliatory tariffs against imports of agricultural products from the EC will inevitably drive them into a vortex of trade war unless they compromise.

The U.S. move to retaliate against the EC stems from their disagreement over the cut of government subsidies to farming households in the on-going Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Many business experts here predicted that if the EC takes counter measures against the United States, the Uruguay Round would collapse or its conclusion would be delayed for a couple of years at least.

They were apprehensive that the collapse of the multilateral trade talks due to the prolonged conflict between the United States and the EC would disturb the international economic and trade order.

They said that the chaos will result in strengthening trade protectionism as the United States, the EC and the rest of the world are likely to enhance bilateral pressure.

They also said that it will dampen the economies of the U.S., the EC and other advanced countries which are now recovering and give rise to widespread regionalism in the world economy.

They forecast that the disruption of the international economic and trade order would seriously affect Korea because of its export-oriented economic structure, especially shrinking shipments to the United States and the EC.

At present, the United States and the EC accounts for 40 percent of Korea's global exports.

In the meantime, they said that the United States and the EC will strengthen their trade pressure against Korea by resorting to anti-dumping suits and bilateral negotiations quite contrary to the principles of free trade stipulated by the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

It is expected that the Clinton administration will strongly prod Korea to open the rice and financial markets and beef up the protection of intellectual property rights.

The Clinton administration is also likely to restrict imports of Korean-made steel and semiconductors which are now charged with their dumping in the U.S. market.

According to statistics from the Trade-Industry Ministry, the world currently restricts imports of 69 industrial items from Korea. In particular, the United States curbs 13 items and the EC 22, accounting for 50.7 percent of the total.

The products controlled by the United States and the EC include lighters, electronic scales, car radios, wire ropes and floppy discs in addition to steel and semiconductors.

An official at the Korea Foreign Trade Association said that countries like Korea which are heavily dependent on exports will be mostly victimized if relations between the United States and the EC further deteriorate and there is no progress in the Uruguay Round.

He called upon the government and business circles to combine efforts to work out a wide range of steps in preparation for worst developments in the international economic and trade order.

But some business analysts said there are possibilities that the United States and the EC would avoid their trade dispute from escalating into trade war.

A researcher at the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade said that even though the United States and the EC had been embroiled in trade frictions, they had settled such disputes through compromises.

He predicted that the present strained relations between the United States and the EC would improve when they negotiate afresh and in earnest in the Uruguay Round after the general elections in France next March.

Editorial Urges Prudence in Weapons Selection

SK1211005292 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 10 Nov 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Be Prudent in Selecting Weapons"]

[Text] Selecting military weapons is very important to national defense in any country. Weapons are very expensive compared to ordinary commodities and a key factor that determines victory or defeat in a war. They are not expendable but durable goods.

Therefore, we must select weapons after carefully examining whether they are appropriate to our nation's topography and military situation; whether there is any danger of equipment failure or accidents; whether their prices are reasonable; whether their parts can be supplied stably; and whether they are suitable to our existing general weapon systems.

It is worthy to note the fact that the Patriot missile and Apache helicopters, very expensive weapons that the ROK Defense Ministry is planning to purchase, have allegedly been found to have serious defects.

The Patriot missile is an antimissile missile, the first such system ever. This U.S.-made defensive weapon system shot down Iraqi Scud missiles during the Gulf war, and, as a result, this has become a favorite in waging modern warfare. At that time, the U.S. Army announced that the Patriot missile's hit ratio was 40 to 70 percent.

However, the postwar reassessment of the Patriot missile's performance has sparked heated controversies. A lieutenant colonel of the ROK Air Force, a doctor of aviation engineering, recently released a short thesis. Quoting (Postoll), a physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as saying that the Patriot missile's hit rate is 15 to 20 percent, this lieutenant colonel said: "The Patriot missile's feasibility was proven in the Gulf war.

However, it has such problems as a poor hit ratio, poor defensive capability, and restraints in operations."

As for the Apache helicopter, some U.S. representatives have insisted that parts and gunnery failures are common and that its night-vision devices have serious defects. The ROK Defense Ministry has long examined whether it is necessary for us to buy the two weapons systems and whether they are suitable. However, the ministry has made no final decision.

Our country is now faced with two contradictory circumstances in military equipment and weapons purchases. On one hand, in view of the state of industrialization in our country and public opinion, we must cut troops and make up for the resultant reduction in our military strength with equipment modernizations. On the other hand, it is clear that the issue of arms reduction will be raised in North-South dialogue if progress is made in such dialogue. Then, the importance of our efforts to beef up armaments would be reduced.

We must take into consideration these changes of the political and social environment when selecting weapons and equipment and make reasonable decisions to ensure no loophole in our defense.

Lobbying efforts are very frenzied in international weapons sales. The selection of weapons must not be affected by the lobbying by weapons manufacturers and their governments. Rather, a minute and unmistaken selection must be made based on the efficiency of those weapons in our national defense and their prices.

Prospects for Year-End Military Reshuffle Viewed

SK1111084292 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 10 Nov 92 p 30

[Article by reporter Pang Chun-sik]

[Text] People in and out of the military have paid attention to the ROK Army's personnel reshuffle to promote generals and appoint key commanders, scheduled for December. If it takes place on a normal scale, the reshuffle will promote a lieutenant general to four-star general, five to six major generals to lieutenant general, and eight to nine brigadier generals to major general, and a small-scale post reshuffle will follow. However, some people predict that because the upcoming reshuffle will be his last during his term in office, President No Tae-u may undertake a more extensive reshuffle than expected.

For example, in the ROK Army's regular personnel reshuffle at the end of 1987, two months before he left office, former President Chon Tu-hwan replaced many of the commanders whose terms had yet to expire and appointed "his people" to major posts. This caused a serious controversy at that time.

Of course, most believe that because this precedent gave people a bad impression of the military, the upcoming reshuffle will not go beyond the people's expectations.

The greatest attention is focused on who will succeed General Song Ung-sop, first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a graduate from the 16th class of the Korea Military Academy [KMA] who will retire late this year. Two classmates of the KMA 18th class will likely compete for this post: Lieutenant General Kim Chae-chang, assistant defense minister for policy, and Lieutenant General Kim Chong-hon, superintendent of the KMA. If a graduate of the KMA 18th class is appointed to the first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, this means that three of the seven Army four-star generals will be from the 18th class. Two other generals from the 18th class are Ku Chang-hoe, commanding general of the Third Army, and Cho Nam-pung, commanding general of the First Army. Meanwhile, one of the four-star generals is from the 16th class and three are from the 17th class.

The terms of three corps commanders, the commander of the Logistics Command, and the commanding general of the Defense Security Command will expire at the end of this year. This means that at least five major generals will likely be promoted to lieutenant general. It is expected that one of the two posts—the commanding general of the Defense Security Command and the commander of the Logistics Command—will be filled by one of the major generals from the 19th class and that the remaining four posts will likely be filled by graduates from the 20th class. Whether one of the major generals from the ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps] will be promoted to lieutenant general is the focus of attention. Only one of the ROTC first class (Pak Se-hwan, commanding general of the Eighth Corps) is now lieutenant general. Meanwhile, the KMA 19th class and the ROTC first class were commissioned in the same year. Two old-time major generals from the ROTC, Kim Pong-chan (ROTC first class), superintendent of the Central Military School, and Kim Chin-ho (ROTC second class), director of the ROK Army Intelligence Staff Office, are strong candidates for promotions.

Besides the one from the KMA 19th class and another from the ROTC, all of the major generals who will be promoted to lieutenant general will be from the 20th class. This means that over half of the field corps commander posts will be filled by graduates from the KMA 20th class. Candidates from the 20th class who may be promoted to lieutenant general are Cho Song-tae, director of the Defense Ministry Policy and Plans Office; Sin Chong, director for civil affairs and psychological warfare; Kim Kil-pu, director of the Inter-Service Cooperation Headquarters; O Yong-u, superintendent of the Nonsan Recruit Training Center; and To Il-kyu, chief of staff of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

Chances are good for a promotion to lieutenant general by Choe Sung-u, director of the Personnel Bureau, and

Pyo Sun-pae, superintendent of the Korea Third Military Academy, two leading major generals from the 21st class. However, they made way for other generals, considering the fact that the retirement age for generals has been extended.

Lieutenant generals who are now serving as field corps commanders or who have finished their terms in posts to which newly promoted lieutenant generals are appointed will be appointed to the post of chief director for operations at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, whose post is now vacant; to the posts of the chief director for strategic planning, the president of the National Defense College, and the chief of the Armed Forces Special Inspection Group whose terms will expire soon; or to the posts of the superintendent of the KMA and the assistant defense minister for policy which may become vacant as a result of the promotion of the incumbents to four-star general.

Also, around eight generals will be appointed to the post of division commanders, and most of them will be from the 23d class. In last June's reshuffle, six graduates from the 23d were appointed division commanders. Then, most of division commanders will be from the 22d and 23d classes.

Burma

U.S. Congressional Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK1111094992 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Congressman Mr. Charles B. Rangel, chairman of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control of the United States Congress, arrived in Rangoon by air this afternoon.

He was accompanied by members of the select committee—Congressman Mr. Benjamin A. Gilman and Congressman Mr. Frank J. Guarini, and retired Congressman Mr. (Lester Ford).

They were welcomed at Yangon Airport by Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe; Police Major General San Thein, director of People's Police Force and secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control [CCDAC]; Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy director of the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; Lt. Col. Thein Han, director general of the Office for Development of Border Areas and National Races; U.S. Charge d'affaires Mr. Franklin P. Huddle; and responsible personnel.

In the evening, U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs and vice chairman of CCDAC, hosted a dinner at the Kandawgyi Hotel in honor of the visiting congressmen.

Thai Goodwill Delegation Visits Rangoon 10 Nov

BK1111090992 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] A Thai goodwill delegation led by Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Woranat Aphichari, supreme commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, arrived by a Royal Thai Air Force special plane in Rangoon at 0930 this morning.

The Thai goodwill delegation was welcomed at Yangon Airport by Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], and director of the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence [DDSI]; Maj. Gen. Tin U, SLORC secretary-2 and Army chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, minister of transport and Air Force commander in chief; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, minister of religious affairs and commander of the Yangon military command; Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw; Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe; senior military officials; Thai Ambassador Mr. Wirasak Futrakun; and the Thai military attaches.

Supreme Commander ACM Woranat Aphichari was accompanied by high ranking military officials.

In the afternoon, Gen. Than Shwe, SLORC chairman and commander in chief of the defense services, hosted a luncheon in honor of the delegation at the People's Assembly Reception Hall. The guests were then entertained by a program of variety cultural dances in Thabin Hall.

The Thai supreme commander and his entourage later visited the Shwedagon pagoda where they signed the distinguished visitor's book and presented donations. The guests then visited the Bogyoke Aung San Market and the Myanmar Traditional Folk Art Exhibition at the Tatmadaw Hall.

The Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander ACM Woranat Aphichari left Yangon at 1600 today. They were seen off at Yangon airport by Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1 and director of DDSI; Maj. Gen. Tin U, SLORC secretary-2 and Army chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, minister of transport and Air Force commander in chief; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, minister of religious affairs and commander of Yangon military command; Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw; Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe; senior military officials; Thai Ambassador Mr. Wirasak Futrakun; and the Thai military attaches.

Calls on Gen. Than Shwe

BK1111082492 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, the visiting Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and his delegation called on General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and commander in chief of the defense services, at the Protocol Chamber of the People's Assembly Building at 1000 this morning.

Present at the meeting with Gen. Than Shwe were Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin and Lieutenant General Tin Tun, deputy prime ministers; Major General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1 and director of the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; Maj. Gen. Tin U, SLORC secretary-2 and Army chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, minister of transport and Air Force commander in chief; U Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs; and Lieutenant Colonel Thein Swe, Burmese military attache in Thailand.

The Thai supreme commander was accompanied by Gen. Phisit Atkhumwong, Gen. (Charan Bunsanong), Gen. (Suphit Woranthai), Lt. Gen. Mongkhon Amphonphisit, Lt. Gen. (Prachuap Phonthawi), Thai Ambassador Mr. Wirasak Futrakun, and the Thai military attaches.

SLORC Reports Recapture of Insurgent Camps

BK1211095592 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] in its Declaration No.11/92, dated 24 April 1992, clearly states that it will hold meetings and consultations with leading members of parliament from existing legal political parties and independent members of parliament or the convening of the national convention. The SLORC also states that the National Convention will be held within six months in order to lay down the basic principles to draft a firm constitution. Furthermore, on 28 April, in order to restore national solidarity and to attain goodwill among all national races with a view toward obtaining national unity, the SLORC sincerely announced that the military offensive in the Karen State will be suspended. The military columns in the offensive regions were also withdrawn.

The KNU [Karen National Union] insurgents, taking advantage of the suspension in the offensive, unscrupulously launched a surprise attack on two small military outposts. A combined group of KNU and so-called DAB [Democratic Alliance of Burma] insurgents, numbering about 500, attacked the Htemukhee outpost in the southern military command region on 25 July 1992. Although the armed forces personnel valiantly defended the camp, it succumbed to the insurgents. In the battle, 23 soldiers including two officers died for the country, 11 soldiers including one officer were wounded, and 11 soldiers were listed as missing. It has been learned that eight insurgents were killed and 23 wounded.

After attacking Htemukhee outpost, the KNU insurgents in collaboration with the so-called KNPP [Karenni National Progressive Party] insurgents, numbering about 400, attacked military camps in the Hweponlaung area in the eastern military command region on 1 September. In the battles, 44 soldiers including three officers were either killed or listed as missing.

Although the defense services have halted the military offensive, it has the right to defend itself. Thus, the counteroffensive at the Htemukhee region in the southern military command area began on 1 August 1992 with fierce battles in the Pawmude and Talatkho mountains. From those mountains, the insurgents defended with full force. Moreover, the insurgents were being administered and supported from the Sawhtat camp near the border area. Our Armed Forces columns, fighting courageously and valiantly, captured Sawhtat camp on 6 October 1992 and Point 1629 hilltop on 18 October respectively.

In the battle for Sawhtat, 25 terrorist insurgents were killed while 10 assorted weapons, one Toyota car, one bulldozer, one Honda motorcycle, one engine, one generator, and a lot of sawn teak timber were captured. Our defense forces suffered the loss of 13 soldiers including one officer, and 77 soldiers including one officer were wounded.

The KNU insurgents, who were resolutely defending the Pawmude and Talatkho mountains in the Htemukhee region, found the situation had deteriorated and retreated. Thus, our Armed Forces columns, together with the Air Force, captured the whole of the Htemukhee, Talatkho mountain, and Htethee region on 6 November.

In the counteroffensive for the Htemukhee region, it has been learned that there were 255 battles, with 142 terrorist insurgents killed and 462 insurgents wounded. From our side, 88 soldiers including three officers died for the country while 437 soldiers including 15 officers were wounded.

Similarly, in the eastern military command area, the defense forces made a counteroffensive on the camps in the Hweponlaung region beginning from 13 September. The terrorist insurgents had to retreat from the Hweponlaung region on 20 September. The insurgents, with a combined force of about 300 personnel, made a firm stronghold at Point 3222 in the Dawthakhet mountain. The Armed Forces columns on their offensive against the stronghold encountered 19 minor battles and finally took control of the entire region on 2 November.

In the counteroffensive for the terrorist insurgent camps in the Hweponlaung region and Dawthakhet mountain, 25 battles took place altogether. In the battles, 87 terrorist insurgents were killed and 74 assorted weapons, 29,501 rounds of assorted ammunition, 278 rounds of heavy artillery ammunition, and 422 assorted mines were captured.

The KNU, DAB, and KNPP terrorist insurgents had misjudged the SLORC's sincere intention in stopping the offensive and had misinterpreted that the peace initiative was made because the government was facing a tight situation. Although the insurgents misunderstood the SLORC's goodwill and unscrupulously launched a surprise attack it was severely repulsed by our defense forces. The terrorist insurgents, who were vanquished with a heavy loss of lives, have already retreated in disarray to the border areas.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Paper Welcomes Clinton's Election Victory

BK1211031092 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 5 Nov 92 p 10

[Editorial: "The Demise of a 'World Policeman'"]

[Text] Bill Clinton was eventually elected as the 42d U.S. president following heated campaigns that sometimes involved personal issues. He defeated George Bush famous for his foreign policy that depicts himself as a "world policeman." We welcome the victory of Clinton, the first Democratic candidate to succeed since 1976. At 46, a relatively young age, he is to lead a superpower. This is an interesting development in the world. The second youngest U.S. president, Clinton can be compared with British Prime Minister John Major who will be 49 soon. Perhaps, Clinton's victory has also indicated world trends to elect leaders who are both young and of a high caliber. A leader should not necessarily be over 50 years to be considered mature and competent enough to show a respectable and bright leadership.

It is obvious that Clinton has become the choice of the American people who have been fed up with the economic recession and who have lost their jobs. Clinton has promised to restore the U.S. economy and enable his fellow countrymen to regain their jobs. Bush has promised tax cuts. However, the American people apparently still remember Bush's action in dragging the superpower into war with an Arab country. Though supported by other countries, the United States cannot afford to incur such huge expenses in a bid to destory Iraq. As a result, this is having direct or indirect effects on the U.S. economy itself. Bush might have expected the Gulf war to help him win a reelection, but the American people did not think that way.

Certainly, Clinton will try to translate his election promises into action as soon as possible. New policies will be introduced, and some of them will certainly have effects on the outside world politically and economically. The first U.S. president elected after the cold war, Clinton will formulate an economic policy that will be more favorable to his country. This is natural. However, we hope that that he will not enact a protectionist trade policy that could affect other countries like the establishment of the North American free trade area. It is hoped that Clinton will guarrantee international free trade, particularly with East Asia. May the strong U.S. opposition to the establishment of the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) lessen or even completely disappear thanks to his election! Certainly, newly industrialized East Asian countries are awaiting a new U.S. trade policy and its effects on them.

Politically, the world is awaiting a new world order to be charted by Clinton. Will the U.S. foreign policy probably change? Will that country do its best to guarrantee world peace, including settling continued problems in West Asia? More or less, some progress has been made to settle the Palestinian issue. However, we are worried over reports that Clinton will alter the stance toward the Arab countries. He was reported to have said that a Democratic administration would drive the United States away from Bush's pro-Arab policy. Clinton, who is said to be a strong supporter of Israel, is said to be opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and will ensure that any arms sales to Arab countries will not affect Israel's military strength. We are worried that the Arab world will again become restless if Clinton adopts such an attitude. It is feared that the increasingly reduced tension will rise again. However, we are optimistic that Clinton is a person mature and competent enough to foresee effects of an unreasonable foreign policy on world peace. We also hope that Clinton will help create a progressive generation not only in the United States but also the world over. May this new generation give priority to world peace!

Early Notice Asked on Japanese Plutonium Ship

BK1211040192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0318 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia hopes Japan will not give short notice to Kuala Lumpur if its ship carrying a hazardous cargo of plutonium home uses the Strait of Melacca, Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Wednesday.

"We hope they (the Japanese Government) will inform us as soon as possible as we need time to take precautionary measures," he told reporters here.

The controversial Japanese ship, "Akatsuki Maru," carrying 1.7 tonnes of the radioactive material left the French port of Cherbourg for Yokohama on Saturday under escort by a Japanese warship, the "Shikisima."

Its exact course has been kept a secret for security reasons.

Dr. Fadzil said although the task force under the Science, Technology, and Environment Ministry had formulated a contingency plan to deal with any accident in the straits should the ship use the congested waterway, other measures needed to be taken.

The ship's movement was constantly monitored by Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials who also receive information from the Japanese Embassy here, he added.

Malaysia, he said, would not withdraw from its stand that the ship avoid passing through the busy straits. Singapore and Indonesia, littoral states of the straits, have also taken a similar stand.

Reportage on Chilean President Aylwin's Visit

Aylwin Expresses Desire To Join APEC

BK1111075292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0707 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Chile, which could serve as an important gateway to Latin American markets, is keen to participate actively in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Visiting Chilean President Patricio Aylwin said here Wednesday APEC, a forum of Asia-Pacific nations, offered the most promising avenue towards intergovernment relations.

Chile could be an important gateway to Latin American markets for the Asia-Pacific countries, especially Malaysia, he added.

Giving a talk at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), he said the Asia-Pacific [region] had become a principal market for Chile and the expansion of transport and communication facilities should be forthcoming to help enhance economic cooperation between the Pacific nations,.

Aylwin, who arrived at the Malaysian capital Tuesday for a four-day visit, said Chile, the first Latin American country to open up its market to speed up economic growth, had an agreement with Mexico to reduce trade barriers to zero.

Similar agreements would, possibly, be signed with Colombia and Venezuela, he added.

He said, however: "It is not our intention to have a kind of Latin American economic community."

King Hosts Banquet, Praises Ties

BK1111142592 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] His majesty, the Yang Dipertuan Agong [Paramount Ruler] Sultan Azlan Shah said Malaysia and Chile have achieved remarkable success in bilateral relations despite of vast geographical distance and the cultural and linguistic barriers. These achievements to the dramatic testimony on what could be achieved when governments and the private sector work together to develop meaningful relations. His majesty was speaking at the state banquet at Istana Negara [State Palace] tonight in honor of the visiting President of Chile, Patricio Alywin Azocar. His majesty said President Alywin's visit—the first by Chilean president to Asia—would further strengthen the exisiting friendly relations and the economic and social link.

Malaysia said that to strengthen links with the other developing countries with Chile would contribute to enhance trade and closer economic cooperation and render both countries less vulnerable to economic pressure and manipulation. Developing countries were now moving into a new phase which entrench such tangible bonds for economic and technical cooperation.

The Yang Dipertuan Agong said the South investment, trade, and technology data exchange center said that agreement which Chile had acceded to with a case in point. [sentence as heard] Cooperation among countries of the South could bring tangible and mutually beneficial gains. But first, cooperation could only flourish in the world where the international trading system was free and unfettered. His majesty observed that, unfortunately, countries in the South were being confronted today with the emergence of trade blocs that threaten to fracture that global trading system. For small countries that were so dependent on the free flow of international trade and commerce, this was indeed a frightening prospect.

Malaysia and its ASEAN neighbors were now working towards the formation of an East Asian Economic Caucus to strengthen their collective ability to uphold the international system of free trade. His majesty expressed the hope that Chile, which is also a Pacific nation, and the other countries of Latin America would work to ensure that Latin America remain open to free trade.

Cultural, Investment Agreements Signed

BK1211072592 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0330 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia and Chile Wednesday cemented ties with the signing of an agreement on cultural cooperation and another for the promotion and protection of investments (IGA) [Investment Guarantee Agreement].

The cultural cooperation agreement was signed by Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, while the IGA was signed by Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Cimma signed on behalf of the Chilean government for both agreements during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's Department here.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

Briefing reporters later, Abdullah said the cultural cooperation agreement called for cultural exchange programmes like exchange of films and journalists so that the peoples of the two countries could get to understand each other's culture.

Prior to the signing ceremony, Aylwin and Dr. Mahathir held bilateral discussions, while delegation-level discussions between the two countries proceeded separately.

Abdullah said during the discussions, the leaders reiterated the importance of bilateral relations, especially in trade and economy, which was an example of how two countries from the South could cooperate with one another.

Both countries also agreed on the need for private sector involvement in cementing closer economic and trade ties, he added.

Abdullah said the Chilean Government agreed to the setting up of a Malaysia-Chile joint commission, to be set up some time next year, to promote closer economic, cultural, technical, and scientific cooperation.

He added that Chile indicated an interest in initiating cooperation in the manufacture of automobiles in the future.

Dr. Mahathir welcomed the interest shown but said it would take some time as a detailed study would have to be carried out.

Abdullah also said the Chilean Government sought Malaysia's support for its membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Malaysia was of the opinion that all Pacific nations could join the forum, he added.

Both countries agreed on the need for the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) to open up its market.

He said the Chilean trade delegation reported keen interest in Malaysian palm oil and its associated products.

Minister Calls for Expanding World Timber Body

BK1211105192 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Nov 92 p 9

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tue—The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) should be expanded to include countries producing temperate and boreal timber, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik said today.

He said the ITTO should be known as the International Timber Organization which would act as a monitoring mechanism for all types of forest.

There is now no monitoring mechanism for temperate and boreal forest management although the tropical forest is monitored by ITTO.

He said Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud would raise the matter on behalf of Malaysia at the ITTO annual assembly to be held on November 14 in Japan.

"A recent study by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has found that clear-felling of temperate forest has caused much damage to the environment.

"Therefore there must be monitoring of all forest management and not just tropical forests and the same goes for eco-labelling," he told reporters at the ground breaking ceremony for a new building at Sekolah Menengah Confucian [Confucian Secondary School] (Private) here.

He also called on local environmentalists to embark on an active programme to look into temperate and boreal forest destruction based on WWF study.

"They should not only invite foreign environmentalists to look at our forest but they should also bring these environmentalists to study the problems faced by temperate and boreal forests."

On the eco-labelling of tropical timber and products by Austria which took effect on September 1 this year, Dr. Lim said Austria's move was based on biased protectionism and the country was hiding under an environmental issue.

"Why are they only concerned with the destruction of tropical forests? In view of the WWF report, why are they not concerned with the destruction of temperate and boreal forests?

He will meet the special envoy of the Austrian Government, Dr. Peter Jankowitsch, on Friday to discuss the issue.

Jan-Aug Trade Deficit Narrows by 82 Percent

BK1111154092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Nov 92 p 20

[Text] Malaysia's trade deficit for the first eight months of this year narrowed further to $1,135.2 million [ringgit currency], owing to trade surpluses over the past four months.

The Malaysian External Trade Summary for January-August 1992, released by the Department of Statistics yesterday, said the trade deficit was 82 percent lower than the $6,311.6 million deficit registered in the corresponding period last year.

The reduction was largely due to the buoyant exports which increased by $5,332.5 million or 8.8 per cent and weaker growth in imports of $156.2 million or 0.2 percent surplus of $388.1 million was recorded in August for the fourth consecutive month, 59.3 percent higher than the $243.6 million surplus achieved in the previous month.

However, both exports (which grew by $8,753.1 million) and imports (which grew by $8,365 million) in August this year were lower than exports (+$9,560.4 million) and imports (+$9,316.8 million) for July 1992.

The department reported that despite the reduction in the overall deficit, the deficit with Japan continued to widen (+$1,480 million or +20.9 percent).

Trade with the United States, meanwhile, improved significantly from a deficit of $755.6 million last year to a surplus of $2,194.1 million in the current period, it said.

Singapore

Japanese Business Group Begins Visit 11 Nov

OW1111141292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Singapore, Nov. 11 KYODO—A high-powered Japanese business group arrived in Singapore on Wednesday [11 November] for a two-day visit on the first leg of a three-nation Southeast Asian tour to forge closer ties with the region.

Top company officials in the 47-member mission, led by Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) Chairman Gaishi Hiraiwa, will meet Singaporean business leaders, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Finance Minister Richard Hu on Thursday.

The 13 key members of the delegation are mainly chief executives of large Japanese corporations such as Toyota Motor Corp., Sanwa Bank, Nissan Motor Co. and Mitsubishi Kasei Corp.

Keidanren officials usually pay visits to countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) about once every three years. The last time they came to Singapore was in 1989.

"The aim of this mission is to promote further bilateral cooperation between Japan and ASEAN as well as to exchange views with ASEAN leaders on identifying the role that Japan and ASEAN should play in the international community," Keidanren said in a statement.

Besides Singapore, the tour includes Indonesia and Brunei. Keidanren plans to visit the other three ASEAN member countries—Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines—in February next year.

Singapore's Economic Development Board will host a lunch for the group Thursday which will be presided over by senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Lim Boon Heng.

The group will also have a meeting with members of Singapore's Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Japan is one of Singapore's biggest investors and trade partners. A total of 1,500 Japanese companies operate in Singapore, some 400 of them in the manufacturing sector.

Singapore is keen to attract Japanese companies to set up more fully automated factories, operational headquarters, and product design and research and development centers.

The government would also like Singaporean companies to team up with Japanese firms to invest in other countries in the region.

The group will leave Singapore on Friday morning for Jakarta.

Cambodia

Visit of U.S. Official Kenneth Quinn Reported

Hun Sen Receives Quinn 11 Nov

BK1111091392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] At 0800 on 11 November at the office of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received a U.S. State Department delegation led by Kenneth Quinn, assistant secretary of state.

On this occasion H.E. Hun Sen welcomed the delegation and informed the guests about the situation and the outcome of implementing the Cambodian peace accord following the failure of the meeting of the Supreme National Council with the cochairmen [of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia] in Beijing.

H.E. Hun Sen also discussed preparations for continuing the agreement's successful implementation leading to the planned general election in Cambodia. We are also awaiting the resolutions of the UN Security Council, which should ensure the implementation of the peace agreement, appropriate to the situation in which the Khmer Rouge have refused to implement the agreement.

Finally, H.E. Hun Sen stressed that firmly continuing to implement the Cambodian peace agreement, the State of Cambodia has been correctly implementing the accord to make it successful and move it forward. It will not allow the Khmer Rouge to destroy and violate the Cambodian peace agreement; it will not allow the Khmer Rouge to consider the international community as a hostage.

Replying, Kenneth Quinn expressed optimism on implementing the agreement to organize the planned elections with or without the Khmer Rouge's participation. He also expressed gratitude to the SOC Government for providing cooperation to facilitate the search for remains of U.S. servicemen in Cambodia missing during the Vietnam war.

Chea Sim Holds Talks With Quinn

BK1111074692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Nov 92

["News flash on His Excellency Chea Sim Holding Talks with Kenneth Quinn"]

[Text] At 0930 on 11 November, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, cordially and warmly received for talks Kenneth Quinn, U.S. assistant secretary of state.

H.E. Chea Sim welcomed Quinn's visit in Cambodia and thanked the United States for contributing to the search for peace in Cambodia and for providing material assistance to rehabilitate Cambodia. H.E. Chea Sim stressed that despite complexities, the State of Cambodia will continue to sincerely implement the Paris peace agreement and make the Cambodian peace process a success.

Replying, Kenneth Quinn expressed his joy at participating in Cambodia's traditional water festival. He admired the stable situation in Cambodia, which has created conditions for the people to enjoy the celebrations. Quinn informed H.E. Chea Sim about the U.S. stance on the implementation of the Paris agreement and further steps on what to do following the failure of the meeting in Beijing. He valued the latest and successive development in the relations between the United States and Cambodia and expressed admiration and joy at positive developments following the signing of the peace agreement in Paris, such as the investment of foreign capital. He expressed disappointment over the failure of the recent meeting in Beijing of the Supreme National Council and the cochairmen of the Paris international conference on Cambodia. However, he affirmed that he now knows the true nature of the Khmer Rouge.

Kenneth Quinn also expressed his views on pushing forward the Cambodian peace process toward success and on avoiding the spreading of a protracted war. He heavily stressed the importance of free and democratic elections to be held next year.

State Department Delegates Leave

BK1211071792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] A delegation of the U.S. State Department led by Kenneth Quinn, assistant secretary of state, left Phnom Penh for Bangkok on the afternoon of 11 November after a successful visit to Cambodia. During his two-day visit, Kenneth Quinn was received by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and H.E. Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia. The latter also hosted a reception in honor of Kenneth Quinn at the Cambodiana Hotel.

The meetings were mostly focused on the continued efforts in the search for peace in Cambodia following the failure of the recent Beijing talks between the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and on Cambodian-U.S. relations that need to be further improved.

Seeing the delegation off at Pochentong International Airport were Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister of the SOC, and Jim Bruno, adviser at the American Embassy in Cambodia.

Two More PDK Generals Stationed With UNTAC

BK1211040392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] According to the office of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] attached to the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Phnom Penh, the PDK on 7 November designated two of its generals—Brigadier Generals Sok Saren and Sek Sam-an—as its representatives to be stationed at Toek Thla along National Route 3 in western Phnom Penh to cooperate with the SNC an UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in implementing the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

The report adds that so far the PDK has already had its representatives stationed with UNTAC in some areas, such as Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanrit, Ku in Oddar Meanchey Province, Sre Ambel junction, and Toek Thla. The report also says that the PDK is looking forward to sending its representatives to be stationed with UNTAC in other areas in compliance with UNTAC's decisions.

The PDK's aforesaid gesture clearly shows its spirit of cooperation with the SNC and UNTAC in correctly implementing all the clauses of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, particularly the following two important key provisions that have to be executed before the others:

1. Handing over to the SNC its role in order for the council to fulfill its tasks as the sole legitimate organization and source of power in Cambodia throughout the transitional period; and

2. UNTAC and the SNC have to join forces to control and verify Vietnamese forces' complete withdrawal from Cambodia and their nonreturn.

French Foreign Minister Quoted on UN Mandate

BK0911125892 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1108 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 9—The United Nations mandate in Cambodia is no longer workable due to the Khmer Rouge refusal to let U.N. peacekeepers into areas they control, the co-chairman of the Paris peace conference was quoted by AFP as saying Sunday.

France's Roland Dumas [words indistinct] Ali Alatas [words indistinct] said the non-application of the Cambodian peace plan [word indistinct] necessary," an adaptation of the mandate, notably regarding the military component, of the United Nations forces".

Some 16,000 U.N. "Blue Berets" are deployed in Cambodia, chiefly to protect civilians [words indistinct] in threatened areas in the run-up to elections anticipated for next May, Dumas, the French foreign minister, told a press conference.

He was unable to elaborate on what the new U.N. mission should be, saying that it was up to the U.N. Security Council, which is to meet before November 15 to discuss the issue.

The Khmer Rouge, in power from 1975 to 1979 during which [words indistinct] one million Cambodians died, are blocking the second phase of the Paris peace accords signed in October 1991.

They are refusing to lay down arms and let U.N. troops into areas under their control, [words indistinct] the organization of the May 1993 elections.

"In Phnom Penh, a U.N. spokesman said suspected Khmer Rouge forces shelled and [words indistinct] observer posted near Cambodia's border with Thailand, the incident took place Saturday [words indistinct] casualties were reported".

Dumas said U.N. troops could be assigned to more (?closely) monitor the movement of people along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border.

The Khmer Rouge, who diplomatic sources say kept a very intransigent attitude at talks this weekend in Beijing, accuse Vietnam of maintaining troops in Cambodia. Hanoi says it pulled out its last soldier in 1989.

In Beijing French and Indonesian Foreign Ministers Dumas and Alatas met with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is president of the Supreme National Council in Cambodia, and leaders of the four warring factions—the

Khmer Rouge, Hun Sen's government, Sihanouk loyalists led by the former monarch's son Prince Norodom Ranarridh, and nationalists under Son Sann.

They also saw the chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, who expressed "frustration" with the current situation.

Dumas and Alatas are to submit a report to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in the coming days so that the Security Council can adopt possible sanctions against the Khmer Rouge by November 15.

"In Bangkok, press reports said Thailand's Armed Forces would seal the border with Cambodia if directed to do so, although they feel such a move would be impractical. Such a move would affect lucrative trade in timber and gems originating in Khmer Rouge controlled areas of Cambodia".

Khieu Samphan Suggests Power Transfer to SNC

BK1111024092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Nov 92

["Statement of His Excellency Khieu Samphan, head of the party of Democratic Kampuchea and member of the Supreme National Council"; dated 8 November—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The implementation of the Paris agreement is facing an impasse. To seek a way out and move forward, we should examine and be unanimous about its root cause.

Its root cause is that one of the key provisions of the Paris agreement has not been implemented. That provision specifies that the Supreme National Council [SNC] is the sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period so that the SNC can cooperate closely and genuinely with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] in implementing all provisions of the Paris agreement, particularly in verifying the total withdrawal of all categories of Yuon [Vietnamese] forces from Cambodia.

2. In fact, since the beginning of the negotiation to seek peace for Cambodia, efforts have been made to prevent the four Cambodian factions from enjoying an equal role in resolving the Cambodian problem. By so doing, they want one party—that is the party which has been installed by the Yuon since 1979—to play a dominant role over the other parties. After the signing of the Paris agreement, they have continued making efforts in this direction.

This is the root cause of the current deadlock which has foiled the full, correct, and unbiased implementation of the Paris agreement.

3. On behalf of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], I would like to emphasize once again that our PDK is still faithful to the Paris agreement. Since the signing of the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991, our PDK has asked just for one thing, that is for the implementation of the agreement in its entirety, correctly, and impartially.

We have noted time and again that so far, the Paris agreement has been implemented in a direction which is not in line with its important points.

The entire Cambodian people, international community, and various newspapers have expressed their concern about such an incorrect implementation of the Paris agreement. This is because the present situation in Cambodia is as follows:

First, war has not yet ended.

Second, Yuon forces are still in Cambodia and Yuon settlers have continued to flow into Cambodia. At present, there are about two million Yuon settlers.

Third, there has been no neutral political atmosphere.

Fourth, the Cambodian people have lost their hope and confidence in the UNTAC.

In such a situation, they [UNTAC] have no political will to jointly seek ways to resolve the situation which has kept deteriorating with each passing day. They have accused the PDK of creating obstacles to the implementation of the Paris agreement. Making such an accusation cannot resolve the problem.

4. Time has come for all to choose between keeping on supporting just the one party which has been installed by the Yuon since 1979 and preventing the implementation of the agreement in its entirety, correctly, and impartially; and upholding the four-party basis giving an equal role to the four Cambodian parties—that is to hand over rights, power, and necessary means to the SNC so that it can fulfill its role, as stipulated in the agreement, as the legitimate body and sole source of power in Cambodia and, thereby, fulfill the noble goal of the Paris agreement to enable Cambodia to enjoy peace, independence, and national reconciliation with its territorial integrity.

The survival of the Cambodian nation and its people depends on the above-mentioned choice.

As a matter of fact, the noble goal of the Paris agreement constitutes the goal for national survival of the Cambodian nation and people. Our PDK will absolutely not deflect from the Paris agreement. Our PDK pledges resolutely to strive hard so that the Paris agreement is implemented correctly, impartially, and fully.

Dated 8 November 1992

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, head of PDK and member of the SNC.

Akashi: UNTAC May Deploy Troops at Polls

OW1011174692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1503 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov. 10 KYODO—The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) may deploy its peacekeeping troops at polling places in next year's general election to secure the safety of the electorate and U.N. election monitoring officials, UNTAC head Yasushi Akashi said Tuesday.

Akashi, returning from a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council meeting in Beijing, told reporters at Phnom Penh Airport "UNTAC troops can be deployed at polling places, electorate registration places and national border inspection places."

Akashi said such a deployment would be an appropriate preventive measure against possible disturbances from guerrilla attacks.

Cambodia's general elections are scheduled for May 1993 under the terms of the 1991 Paris peace agreement, which also calls, in the current second phase of the peace process, for all Cambodian warring factions to demobilize and disarm ahead of the elections.

However, the Khmer Rouge faction, militarily the strongest among the three guerrilla factions opposed to the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government, has refused to join the second phase of the peace process.

So far, two nonmilitary U.N. election monitors have been deployed to each of polling and registration places.

At Beijing's SNC meeting, Akashi hinted that the SNC has reached agreement on the need to hold a presidential election, saying "the majority of people recognize (such an election) will help stabilize Cambodia."

Akashi said, however, that "the timing and details (of the presidential election) were not yet decided."

Hun Sen Vows To Return KR to Peace Process

BK1211065192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] During his stay in Bangkok on the way home from a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] in the Chinese capital of Beijing, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and member of the Supreme National Council, met with H.E. Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, at Government House, at 1000 on 10 November. He was accompanied by H.E. Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister, and member of the Supreme National Council; H.E. Hor Namhong, foreign minister and SNC member, and other aides.

H.E. Hun Sen thanked the Thai Government for its efforts in the search for a peaceful solution to the Cambodian conflict which is presently at deadlock due to the intransigence of the Khmer Rouge [KR], who are trying to use all possible means and pretexts to inflict a setback on the UN peace plan. He also restated that the SOC will further strive to implement the accord, especially to bring the Khmer Rouge back onto the track of the peace process. The fact is, he added, it is the Khmer Rouge who have excluded themselves from the process of peace and national reunification.

Concerning trade relations between Thailand and the Khmer Rouge, H.E. Hun Sen told H.E. Prasong Sunsiri that the issue is not only related to politics but also to the longstanding ties between the Cambodian and Thai peoples. Sealing passes along the Thai border and the Khmer Rouge-controlled areas, he said, also constitutes a means to force the Khmer Rouge to return to the peace process.

The Cambodian prime minister also talked about the need for cooperation between Thailand and the SOC in cracking down on banditry and other offenses along the common border so as to ensure peace and order for the people.

In his reply, H.E. Prasong Sunsiri expressed Thailand's willingness to see Cambodia recover peace and his hope that all Cambodian political parties would be able to settle all differences in the end. Reaffirming the Thai Government's stance on the current situation concerning the implementation of the Cambodian peace plan, the foreign minister told the SOC side that at present, Thailand is waiting for the UN Security Council's resolutions and that it is ready to comply with all UN decisions.

At a meeting with Thai Prime Minister H.E. Chuan Likphai at 1030 on the same day, both parties voiced the need to further implement the peace plan with or without the Khmer Rouge. The Thai prime minister also reaffirmed Thailand's determination to accept and implement all decisions taken by the United Nations, especially those made by the UN Security Council on the Cambodian problem.

At 1100 on the same day, H.E. Hun Sen, H.E. Tie Banh, and H.E. Hor Namhong continued talks with H.E. Prasong Sunsiri in order to examine eventual and concrete measures that the Thai Government could take to contribute to seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict in Cambodia. Also present were H.E. (?Surin Phitsuwan), Thai deputy foreign minister and H.E. Sunai, Thai ambassador to Cambodia.

The fruitful dialogue was conducted in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Im Sothi Briefs Newsmen on Situation 10 Nov

BK1111074892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] On the morning of 10 November at an international hotel, Im Sothi, deputy minister of the Council of

Ministers office and spokesman of the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s Government, held a news conference to disseminate information on a number of situations relating to the peace process in Cambodia among the local and foreign media.

Speaking on this occasion, Im Sothi talked about the attacks by the Khmer Rouge in zones under SOC control resulting in serious damages to the property and lives of our Cambodian people. Furthermore, the Khmer Rouge have brought heavy weapons into many zones such as Kompong Thom, Battambang, Pursat, and Preah Vihear Provinces. More recently, the Khmer Rouge fired at two UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] helicopters and also attacked UNTAC positions.

Im Sothi also pointed out that in His Excellency Hun Sen's address in Beijing, the SOC and the SOC Government insisted on holding the presidential election before the constituent assembly election; this is to elect an outstanding personality to lead the country. The SOC also proposed that the United Nations and the international community take new measures to enable the election in Cambodia to take place. He further said that the Khmer Rouge not only have refused to implement the peace agreement but also violated the peace accord signed in Paris last year. Therefore, the SOC appealed for the end of the implementation of the second phase, which has failed; the SOC is not going to take any more chances with the Khmer Rouge.

This news conference ended after Im Sothi explained, clarified, and answered questions by the local and foreign media.

Russian Arms Supplies to SRV Condemned

BK1211030092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Station commentary: "Are Not Armaments To Be Sold or Supplied by Russia to Vietnam for the Purpose of Allowing the Vietnamese to Further Invade and Occupy Cambodia?"]

[Text] According to various reports, the Russian ambassador in Hanoi has been in the process of having talks with the Hanoi authorities on the issue of selling Russian armaments to Vietnam. The general public questions the purpose of Vietnam's need of Russian weapons and wonders whether the armaments to be sold or given to Vietnam are for the Vietnamese to further invade and occupy Cambodia.

The Cambodian people are of the opinion that the arms supply is part of a scheme concocted by a group of alliances to help the Vietnamese aggressors in their opposition against the Cambodian people, because:

1. One year has already passed, UNTAC [the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has neither controlled nor verified the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia or its withdrawal. It has instead defended the Vietnamese and let them enter Cambodia at will and in an increasing number.

2. UNTAC is currently shoring up the Vietnamese puppet regime.

3. UNTAC is presently supporting the Vietnamese puppet regime with economic and financial aid and so on.

The Cambodian people say Vietnam, which played the cat's-paw role in the war in Cambodia, was not able to crush the Cambodian people with military force over the past 14 years. On the contrary, it was defeated and entangled in the net of the guerrilla warfare conducted by the Cambodian people.

After the signing of the Paris 23 October accord, Russia has collapsed, the Vietnamese have turned themselves into puppets, and the alliances in and outside UNTAC, which are wearing UN badges, have been made to succor the Vietnamese puppets. They have painstakingly been implementing an agreement which has been falsely altered so as to destroy the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces with the deficient, modified agreement.

Now, it is the second year of the Paris accord's implementation. The altered agreement of the Vietnamese aggressors, the UNTAC head, and the alliances in and outside UNTAC are being bitterly denounced in the national and international arenas. And any attempt to use a brutal force by the Vietnamese aggressors and the alliances to attack the Cambodian people in the upcoming dry season and in the future will, at all costs, end in a most serious, shameful defeat.

Chea Sim Thanks Hitachi Company for Investment

BK1211085392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, chairman of the National Assembly, and chairman of the Front's National Council, received a courtesy call at the office of the CPP Central Committee on the afternoon of 11 November from Mr. Okata, chairman of Japan's Hitachi Company. H.E. Chea Sim cordially welcomed the guest and thanked Hitachi for investing in the State of Cambodia [SOC] and thus contributing to the rehabilitation and stabilization of Cambodia's commercial and other sectors. He also underlined the overall situation in the SOC, especially the implementation of the Cambodian peace agreement, to which the SOC faction has strictly adhered in close cooperation with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. The chairman also informed his guest of the difficulties created by the Khmer Rouge, who have refused to abide by the peace agreement and continue to violate it and murder the Cambodian people despite the compromise made by the United Nations in their favor. H.E. Chea Sim then highly praised the Tokyo conference on aid for Cambodia's reconstruction. In conclusion, he expressed gratitude to the Japanese Government for sending troops to Cambodia for the peacekeeping mission on behalf of UNTAC.

In his remarks, Hitachi Company Chairman Okata expressed great pleasure at being allowed to pay a courtesy call to H.E. Chea Sim and to learn about developments in the SOC in the past nearly 14 years. He firmly hoped that good relations between Japan and the SOC will further develop in the future.

Former Resistance General Joins With Phnom Penh

BK1011103392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] A ceremony was organized on the morning of 9 November at the Chamka Mon state palace to confer the rank of general of the State of Cambodia [SOC] to Pan Thai, former chief of staff of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front army, under the lofty chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD].

Also taking part in the ceremony were H.E. Sar Kheng, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and interior minister; H.E. General Sin Song, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee and national security minister; H.E. General Ke Kimyan, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee, first deputy defense minister, and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Army [CPA]; H.E. General Pol Saroeun, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and chief of staff of the CPA; ministers; deputy ministers; CPA officers; and many local and foreign guests.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP and chairman of both the National Assembly and the KUFNCD National Council, expressed happiness and welcomed the participation of Pan Thai, who has rendered justice to the CPP and the SOC Government with a sincere stance appropriate to the CPP's liberal policy of opening up to all circles which want to bring their contributions regardless of their tendencies; these will always be welcomed by the CPP and the SOC Government.

Afterward, Chan Ven, general secretary of the Council of State, read the Council of State's decree, No. 103, conferring the rank of general to Pan Thai and assigning him to the post of adviser to H.E. Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

After H.E. Chea Sim conferred the rank of general to Pan Thai, the latter spoke expressing pride for the decision by the CPP and the SOC Government to grant him this honor and noble task. He pledged to do his best to serve the CPP and the SOC Government; faithfully and strictly abide by the policy of the CPP and the SOC Government; and foster broad solidarity among troops, officers, state authority, and people to contribute to building the nation in accordance with CPP policy.

Remains of Missing Newsmen Returned to Japan

OW0911102892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov. 9 KYODO—The Ministry of National Security on Monday repatriated the remains of two Japanese newsmen and a French journalist uncovered and identified by a U.S.-Cambodian excavation team searching for the missing bodies in March.

The two Japanese newsmen, Kojiro Sakai and Yoshihiko Waku, were missing for more than 22 years after disappearing south of Phnom Penh in May 1970 while on an assignment for two United States television news organizations.

Sakai, a soundman for CBS News, and Waku, a soundman for NBC News, had reportedly been captured by Khmer Rouge forces, executed and buried near a village 40 kilometers south of the Cambodian capital.

On Monday, Sakai's eldest son Ichiro attended the repatriation service for his father and Waku, saying "I always thought (the remains of my father) would be found someday, but this is really a miracle."

Japanese Embassy authorities accepted Waku's remains.

The remains of the two newsmen were scheduled to be cremated later Monday in Phnom Penh.

'1,553,372 Hectares' of Rice Planted by 24 Oct

BK0711092992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] According to an incomplete report from the Agronomy Department of the Agriculture Ministry, 1,553,372 hectares of land nationwide—or more than 76 percent of the planned target area of 2,040,000 hectares—had been planted with rice by 24 October.

The department also reports that, although this year's rice production has not proceeded smoothly due to drought (?in some areas), in general the total acreage planted has only decreased by 4,800 hectares compared with the same period last year. This is thanks to our party and state's land control and utilization policy toward the peasants everywhere, making the latter happy to exploit their land to the maximum.

Svay Rieng Province has exploited over 95 percent, Kompong Cham Province has exploited more than 94 percent, Takeo and Kratie Provinces have exploited over 92 percent, and Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, and Kompong Speu Provinces have exploited between 80 and 86 percent of the planned target amount of land.

At present, 47,439 hectares of land planted with intensive rice and 11,810 hectares with short-term rice have begun to yield crops. And our peasants are currently making preparations for planting floating rice and dry-season rice so as to gather an abundant harvest.

Indonesia

Information Exchange Agreement Signed With Laos

BK1111155092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1427 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 11 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia and Laos have agreed to promote cooperation and exchange of experiences in the field of information.

The agreement is contained in a memorandum of understanding [MOU] signed by Information Minister Harmoko and Laotian Minister of Culture Bouteng Vongsai [name as received] here on Sunday, the Indonesian Ministry of Information announced here on Tuesday.

The MOU consists of eight points concerning among other things the importance of cooperation in the provision of mass media training and steps to be taken to establish a new information order and world communication system, including the realization of decisions taken by the conference of ministers of information of the non-aligned countries.

The two countries also agreed to create a favourable climate for the operation of information bodies of both countries and to further tighten cooperation through the intermediary of the two information ministries.

The consensus stressed on the need to establish a committee of senior officials of the RI [Republik Indonesia] Information Ministry and the Culture Ministry of the People's Republic of Laos to negotiate and solve problems arising from the realization of aforesaid memorandum.

A further report on the visit of Information Minister Harmoko to Laos (on November 9) said that in the company of his Laotian counterpart Bounteng Vongsai, Harmoko was received by Laotian Prime Minister, Khamtai Siphandon.

Apart from the question of cooperation in the field of information between Indonesia and Laos, Minister Harmoko also explained on the significance of follow-ups of the decisions taken by the 10th Non-aligned Movement [NAM] summit, particularly in the field of information and communication.

Premier Siphandon conveyed his deepest appreciation for Indonesia's success as host country of the 10th NAM summit which produced the Jakarta message and final document, both having a strategic value for the further struggle of NAM, and fight for the well-being of the human race in general.

Minister Says Saudis, Iranians Overproducing Oil

BK1011152092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 10 (AFP)—Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita Tuesday said that Saudi Arabia and Iran were now producing crude oil in excess of their OPEC quotas.

"OPEC members who are overproducing are Saudi Arabia and Iran," the ANTARA news agency quoted Ginandjar as saying after attending a ceremony at the presidential palace.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was now plagued by "an old sickness," namely overproduction, he said.

Ginandjar gave no figure but that OPEC total production stood at over 25 million barrels per day compared to the 24.2 million barrel ceiling agreed by the group's 13 members.

He said that the overproduction was partly blamed for the current low oil prices despite the traditional rise in demand in anticipation of winter in the northern hemisphere.

"This situation is clearly not desirable and if we wish prices to rise, the respective oil production of each OPEC member should be reviewed," he said.

Bank Chief Promises Monetary Advice to SRV

BK0711140192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Indonesia will provide bilateral technical assistance programs in the monetary field to Vietnam in the framework of South-South cooperation. The technical assistance programs will consist of debt management, the administration and reporting system, coordination work among government agencies, and division of duties and authority in Vietnam's Ministry of Finance and Central Bank.

Central Bank Governor Adrianus Mooy said this to reporters after he, along with Finance Minister Sumarlin and Minister-State Secretary Murdiono, met with President Suharto at the Cendana Road presidential residence in Jakarta this afternoon. According to the Central Bank governor, there are several ways to implement the technical assistance program.

[Begin Mooy recording] There are several ways we can do it: first, the Vietnamese Central Bank and Ministry of Finance can dispatch their officials to Indonesia to study our administrative and management systems to handle foreign loans. Second, we may send our officials to Vietnam to organize seminars on Indonesia's experiences in [words indistinct] foreign loans. [sentence indistinct] [end recording]

The Central Bank governor added that the IMF and UNDP [United Nations Development Program] will also extend their support to Indonesia-Vietnam cooperation.

Paper Views Possible Rethink on TV Policy

BK1011125792 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 3 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "The Television Onslaught"]

[Text] Nearly 30 years ago, the Canadian journalist, Marshall McLuhan, coined the phrase "global village" to describe how the electronics revolution was shrinking the world and shortening the time elapsing between thought and action.

Ever since, we have witnessed how small a size the world could shrink to under the onslaught of the electronics media, particularly television. For example, hundreds of millions of people from all over the world witnessed the Gulf War in their living rooms even as it was being fought, thanks to the hour-by-hour reports from CNN [Cable News Network].

In Indonesia, television programs beamed from Jakarta now reach almost every village via the Palapa satellites, first launched in 1976. For the first time, in terms of communications, the Indonesian archipelago has really coagulated into one single nation. Indonesia also has become an inseparable part of the global village, due to the advent of television broadcasts by CNN, Star TV, MTV, and, more recently, the Australian network, ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corporation].

The age of borderless television is already here. Nobody seems to be able to escape this "attack." In other countries, annoyed government officials may attempt to block out the marauding images, for example by blacking out certain programs, but in the longer run most will probably be powerless to stop this offensive.

Some people here may criticize the government for not strictly regulating the satellite dish, or parabola antennas, but with our geographical layout and poor enforcement capability, we do not see any chance that such a restriction could effectively stop the onslaught. The fact that some 400,000 parabola antennas are now in operation in this country—the largest number in Southeast Asia—shows that any policy meant to stop the coming of the satellite television era to the archipelago would be useless.

One thing we could do is to try to stall the advance of foreign television. Another move, like that of a war game, would be for us to be more prepared. We could politically and, more importantly, culturally prepare our people to be ready to absorb the impact, thereby blunting the influence of the alien images.

It is in this context that we see the government's plan to revise the present policy by allowing private television stations to broadcast nationwide.

As reported by the press last week, Minister of Information Harmoko disclosed that his ministry was studying a plan to revise the present policy, which stipulates that only the state-owned television station, TVRI [Televisi Republik Indonesia] and the privately-owned education television station, TPI [Televisi Pendidikan Indonesia], are allowed to broadcast nationwide.

The new policy would allow the privately-owned RCTI [Rajawali Citra Televisi Indonesia] and SCTV [expansion unknown] broadcasters, as well as the six other new private television stations, which reportedly have been granted licenses, to go nationwide. There is no question: To do so they will have to use the Palapa satellites.

To date, the impact of the onslaught of foreign television has been limited to satellite dish owners, most of whom belong to the educated upper middle class. The target viewers for the nationwide domestic private television networks, however, are Indonesians from all walks of life. Many of them are poor and live in rural areas and have heterogeneous cultural and educational backgrounds.

Each society has its own values and yardsticks. Are the people who will broadcast these private television station programs aware of these facts? Do they realize the extent of their responsibilities as image makers?

Judging by what has happened with RCTI, we have our doubts. Programs which contain a lot of sex and violence are broadcast in the afternoon or early evening when small children are likely to be among the television audience. It is difficult to envision something like this happening even in the United States.

When, several years ago, the government banned advertisements on state-owned TVRI, the stated reason was to protect the common people from the dangers of consumerism. Now, if, or when, those privately- owned television networks go nationwide—since they survive through advertisements—the people will surely be exposed to this "danger" again.

Have we made the proper preparations to anticipate the consequences? We suggest that the government move with caution.

Consulate Opened in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea

BK1111052892 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 31 Oct 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Vanimo, 31 October—On behalf of the minister of foreign affairs, Sudarmanto Kadarisman, director general for protocol and consular affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs, inaugurated the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea [PNG] in a solemn ceremony in Vanimo, the capital of Sundaun Province, PNG on Thursday (29 October).

The director general cut a ribbon to mark the inauguration. The ceremony started with the hoisting of the red and white flag to the accompaniment of the national anthem, Indonesia Raya. The ceremony was presided over by Anthony David Mahulette, consul of the Republic of Indonesia in Vanimo. [passage omitted]

Laos

SRV's Vinh Phu Delegation Visits Luang Namtha

BK1111093692 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Vientiane, November 11 (KPL)—A delegation of Vinh Phu Province of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by Mr. Phuong Duc Xung, vice secretary of the party commitee and chairman of the People's Council of Vinh Phu, on November 8 started a 10-day visit to Luang Namtha Province at the invitation of the party committee and administration of Laos' northern province.

During the visit, the Vietnamese delegation and the host are to hold talks and review the results of the economic, sociocultural cooperation and sign a memorandum on cooperation during the 1992-1995 period.

The Vietnamese delegation are to visit production bases and historical sites in the province.

Delegation Returns From Environment Conference

BK1111085792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] At noon on 7 November, the Laos science delegation led by Khammon Phonkeo, deputy minister of industry and handicrafts, returned home after participating in the second science conference on environment, science and technology, in Thailand, at the invitation of Her Royal Highness Professor Dr. Princess Chulaphonvalailak.

The conference was held from 2 to 6 November as part of the official celebration of the 60th birthday anniversary of her majesty the queen of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The main purpose of the meeting was to provide opportunities for scientists, engineers, environmentalists, and policy planners from various countries all over the world to gather and exchange knowledge and experiences on environmental issues.

The prime objective was especially targeted at developing countries whose representatives were required to set policies and guidelines for environmental conservation in the 21st century and for the development of science and technology in a way that will not adversely affect the environment.

The discussion also touched on the issues of health and hygiene, toxic chemical waste, the difference between biology and biotechnology, and the relation between science and technology and the environment. The meeting was attended by 1,200 delegates from 40 countries.

Further on Preparations for Assembly Election

BK1111052092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] In preparing for the election of members to the Third National Assembly scheduled to be held on 20 December, the study and publicity of various documents concerning the election has basically been completed in all provinces througout the country.

At the same time, activities in preparing other facilities for the election have been proceeding extensively countrywide.

In Saravane Province, provincial authorities on 9 November reported that throughout the province there are a total of 226 polling units and more than 115,000 eligible voters out of a total of provincial population of 232,000 citizens. Preparations in general in the province have been completed in the second stage.

In Paklai District, Sayaboury Province, more than 90 cadres have carried out activities to publicize documents on rules and regulations about the election. At present, the district has already completed the third stage of preparation for the election.

In Phouvong District, Attopeu Province, hundreds of people from various villages have completed repairing of several intervillage roads and cleaning of places for use in the election.

In Bobeo Province, more than 80 members of mass organizations in the provincial municipality have energetically cleaned and decorated the monument of unknown combatants and areas to be used as polling units.

Officials Destroy 25 Marijuana Plantations

BK1111091292 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] In late October, the administration of Phonthong District, Champassak Province, in collaboration with a number of local authorities, inspected and eradicated marijuana crops in the Phonkham area of the district.

During the inspection, they found 25 marijuana plantations with about 18,000 newly-planted saplings and a number of seedlings.

The team of district administrators and local officials told the plantations owners about their illegal practices before they destroyed the crops.

In addition, more than 50 villagers in Phonkham area also attended the briefing on the adverse effects of marijuana on health and its categorization as a prohibited and illegal narcotic plant.

Preparations Made for 2d Rice Crop This Year

BK1111100492 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Vientiane, November 11 (KPL)—Along with the wet rice harvest on more than 300,000 ha across the country, preparations are being made for second rice crop cultivation on a total of over 18,500 ha throughout the country.

Of the total areas, more than 8,200 ha are in Vientiane municipal area where irrigation is more common, 2,500 ha in Savannakhet, 1,500 ha in Khammouane, 1,383 in Luang Prabang, and 1,435 ha in Vientiane Province.

This year, more than the previous ones, there are more activities in the other regions for growing second rice crop. This irrigated rice growing practice understandably depends on available irrigation facilities. The regions are Phong Saly, Luang Namtha, Oudomsai, Bokeo, Houa Phan, Sayaboury, Xieng Khouang, Bolikhamsai, Saravane, Sekong, Champassak, Attopeu, and special zones.

To achieve the second rice plantation, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Sisavat Keonounphan has called on all provincial and ministerial sectors to be active in supporting the rice production movement by all possible means.

He also asked the sectors to resolutily implement measures to end slash-and-burn cultivation practices among the people, preserve environment and support the building of household, village-based irrigational facilities.

Defense Minister Visits Soldiers in Champassak

BK1211063492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Early last week, Lieutenant General [Lt. Gen.] Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense, visited officers and soldiers attached to the Southern Region Division "E" in Champassak Province, especially at the Champassak Provincial Military Command, the Viangsai Armed Forces Cultural School, the Army hospital, a combined battalion, and various independent army units.

On this occasion, a total of more than 300 officers and soldiers in the area attended a lecture given by the minister. The minister extended his regards to all the officers and soldiers who are upholding national defense througout the southern region.

Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason informed the attendants of the complicated changes in the international situation and the need for performing the duties of defending our nation in the renovation period.

The minister also urged all the military officers and soldiers to maintain and intensify their spirit of responsibility and to attentively apply the principle of renovation to the tasks of defending the nation and building the economic, cultural, and social foundations in an even more efficient manner.

In the end, he urged them to employ their utmost abilities to create favorable conditions for the smooth and successful holding of the election of the Third National Assembly, scheduled to be held in mid-December.

Philippines

Mutual Defense Board Discussions Viewed

HK1011110092 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 10 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Frothing In the Mouth With Nonsense"]

[Text] The meeting last week of the Mutual Defense Board [MDB] was in some ways a watershed. It was its last before the departure on Nov. 24 of the last contingent of senior American naval officers based in Subic Bay. Their departure completes the process of the withdrawal of U.S. forces in the Philippines, ending nearly a century of bilateral security relationship. By its next meeting in 1993, the MDB would be entering the post-bases period with its new set of security problems, many of them not envisaged by the Mutual Defense Treaty [MDT] of 1951.

Given the acrimony left by the debate over the rejection of the draft treaty that sought to extend the lease of the bases, it is not surprising that the MDB meeting—or its joint statement—touched raw nerves. Nationalists, forever suspicious that the U.S. was bound to spring some tricks to encroach upon Philippine sovereignty, and incurably sanctimonious about their role as self-designated watchdogs of national independence, denounced the meeting as having agreed to give "access" to U.S. forces after we have decided to kick out the bases.

Senators, ever jealous of their imagined role as sharing power with the President in conducting foreign policy, smelled a rat and are suspicious that the MDB had not only granted access to the U.S. forces but also had done so without the power to make treaties. Some have even charged that the military has usurped the powers of the Senate as well as of the diplomats in negotiating treaties. Before we even make a mountain out of a molehill and raise another false issue, it might make sense to examine the facts and determine a few fundamental things. Those who are not prepared to examine evidence, who do not understand logic, and who choose to imagine phantoms can continue to froth in the mouth with their nonsense. This piece is not for them.

The key question is whether the MDB has entered into an "access" arrangement. The phrase in the statement issued by the MDB that provoked ill-informed and knee-jerk reaction was that which said, "The closure of the last U.S. military facility in the Philippines later this month will mark the beginning of a new era in U.S.-Philippines defense cooperation, one in which U.S. forces will no longer rely on fixed, permanent bases in Southeast Asia, but on a variety of cooperation arrangements with virtually all countries in the region. In the case of the Philippines, the MDT and MDB are expected to continue to provide a forum for coordinating military-to-military activities between the two allies.

" ... It is anticipated that, in the spirit of mutual cooperation, various programs and projects would include...customary ship visits, aircraft transits, and rendering of assistance by U.S. forces during natural disasters." U.S. naval vessels made more than 2,000 port calls in the Pacific this year, without offending nationalist sensibilities in other countries.

The issue of access to Subic was never taken up, at least not the dirty word "access". However such phrases as "cooperative engagement" and "places, not ships" were used by senior American military representatives in the meeting. These phrases were immediately taken as euphemisms for "access". Admiral Charles R. Larson, Cinc-Pac, did stress that what they had in mind was that ships, planes and troops would come and go as needed in response to emergencies and that the U.S. did not want a permanent force stationed in the Philippines. The fact is that a joint exercise—"Balikatan" [shoulder-to-shoulder]—has just been completed between Philippine and U.S. forces.

The first thing to do is for us to determine whether come-and-go arrangements of men, ships, and planes for mutual security problems constitute an access agreement. It should be established whether these arrangements violate the spirit of the rejection of the treaty and constitute infringement on sovereignty French, Japanese and friendly nations' warships have in fact already been given free entry for visits here. Singapore has granted "access" to U.S. facilities by hosting the logistics command unit that has shifted there from Subic. This does not offend Singapore's sense of independence. As well, Singapore and Malaysia are members of the five-power defense arrangement with Britain, Australia and New Zealand. They are not worried that this security framework impairs independence.

In a larger perspective, we have to decide whether to quarantine and isolate ourselves from the security concerns of the region just because we expelled the bases. Whether we like it or not, our Asean allies and Japan want continuing U.S. security presence in the region to maintain some equilibrium. Asean wants us to be a partner of a new regional arrangement, even if we do not host fixed bases. Asean respects and recognizes our decision to end the bases, but it seeks to involve us in regional security arrangements in the face of changes wrought by the end of the Cold War, the diminishing U.S. and Soviet military presence in Asia-Pacific and the emergence of conflict flashpoints in the South China Sea.

The question that we have to resolve, therefore, is whether arrangements that allow entry here of friendly forces responding to regional crisis, without having to host permanent bases, are compatible with national sovereignty or even with the MDT. We can, if we are foolish and ignore changed requirements for regional security, isolate ourselves from the region and retreat into autarky. But autarky has never made any nation autonomous or even strong, although it does fan the rhetoric of anachronistic nationalism.

Military, Defense Officials Back MDT Review

HK1111045192 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 92 p 6

[Report by Manny Mogato]

[Excerpt] Top defense and military officials yesterday said they would support the administration's plan to review and possibly amend the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) in the light of the prevailing regional security situation.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said they were ready to implement what the policy-makers would like to do with the existing security pact with Washington. But he remained non-committal on the issue.

"I think the bottomline here is that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will implement whatever is the policy," he told reporters in Malacanang.

His views were echoed by AFP chief of staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia who was also sought for comment on the proposal by some senators to amend the MDT to force the U.S. to commit itself into protecting the Philippines from external threat.

"I don't know, the MDT is beyond me. It's in the hands of the President and the legislators," he said. "I am just a good soldier following orders whatever they decide. That's beyond my turf."

In Camp Aguinaldo, meanwhile, a ranking military officer said the Philippines could invoke the MDT to protect Philippine claims to the Spratly Islands provided the country's armed forces maintains a presence there.

The official, who requested anonymity, cited Article V of the treaty which says the U.S. is obliged to come to the aid of the Philippines if AFP personnel, facilities or equipment in the Pacific are attacked.

Article V states that an armed attack "on either of the parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the metropolitan territory of either of the parties, or on the island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific or on its armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific."

The source said the South China Sea, where the controversial Spratlys are located, is "by U.S. doctrine" part of the Pacific.

Earlier, the Senate foreign affairs committee said it found out in its studies that the MDT had no automatic retaliatory clause, which will bind the U.S. to defend the Philippines in case of aggression.

Many administration officials believe there is a need to review and update the 1951 treaty because it was formulated to combat communism in the region.

After the Cold War ended, security officials believed there was a need to improve the existing bilateral security arrangements between Manila and Washington. [passage omitted]

Romulo Cites U.S. Pledge To Defend Country

HK1111053092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Nov 92 p 12

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo said yesterday former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance reaffirmed on Jan. 6, 1979 the United States' obligation to defend the Philippines in the event of an armed attack.

Romulo made a statement on Article IV of the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) shortly before his departure for Vietnam.

He quoted Vance as saying, "I should like to reaffirm our obligation to act to meet the common dangers in accordance with our constitutional processes in the event of an armed attack in the Pacific area on the Republic of the Philippines."

Romulo stated Vance wrote the secretary's father, General Carlos P. Romulo, then secretary of foreign affairs, of the U.S. commitment.

The secretary of state declared that "Article V of the MDT states that for the purposes of Article IV, an armed attack on either of the parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the metropolitan territory of either of the parties or on the island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific or on its armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific."

Treaty Binds U.S. To Act on China Sea Disputes

HK1111121092 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The United States has the responsibility to defend the Philippines in case of conflict in the South China Sea. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, this obligation is embodied in an exchange of notes between former American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Foreign Affairs Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo in 1979.

In today's hearing of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Tomas Syquia said Vance promised American assistance in case the Philippines became involved in a conflict as part of the Philippines-United States Mutual Defense Treaty.

In the same hearing, the senators also asked government representatives for a clearer position on the issue of giving American forces temporary access to the military bases they are leaving behind.

[Begin Senator Ople recording] He could not answer the question of why or how this is to be reconciled with a statement by Admiral Charles Larson, commander in chief of the Pacific Command, that the United States does not recognize any claims in the South China Sea. [end recording]

Ramos Declares Subic, Cubi International Ports

HK1111142092 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Nov 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Booma Cruz]

[Text] With still more than two weeks to go before the official turnover of Subic Naval Base to the Philippine government, President Ramos declared yesterday the U.S. military facility as an international sea port and Cubi Point as an international airport.

Olongapo Mayor Richard Gordon, chairman of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority [SBMA], said Cubi would be open to international commercial flights as soon as the last American military personnel leaves the country on Nov. 24 after almost a century on Philippine soil. Gordon said the occasion would see the biggest Philippine flag ever to be unfurled since the country's independence.

With its 9,000-feet runway and modern facilities, Cubi Point, according to Gordon, would be the best airport in the country. Evergreen Airlines of Taiwan, he said, would most likely be the first airline to make use of Cubi Point.

Gordon told Palace reporters that Taiwanese Ambassador Liu Pol Sun has already agreed to arrange charter flights from Taiwan to Subic starting Nov. 24. He said the initial flights would bring in at least 130 tourists and potential investors daily.

Taiwanese businessmen have expressed interest in investing in Subic. They have, in fact, offered to lease 300 hectares of land in the area, which could generate at least 160,000 jobs for residents within the vicinity.

Gordon said the Taiwanese would want to set up non-polluting, labor-intensive light industries in the area, such as manufacturing and electronics.

The SBMA chairman also said tourists should come in to get a taste of the recreation facilities of the former base.

"We have the beach, the Grande Island, shooting ranges, casino, scuba diving, horseback riding. Subic is not just a logistics area, it is also an R and R (rest and recreation) facility, he added.

Government Asked To Protest Japan Plutonium Ship

OW1011140892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Manila, Nov. 10 KYODO—Philippines political leader Miguel Romero said Tuesday he has asked the government to lodge a protest with Japan over its shipment of plutonium from France.

Romero, chairman of the House of Representatives cabinet appointment committee, said he has asked the Foreign and Defense Ministries to stage a strong protest at the Japanese Government over the shipment because the plutonium-carrying ship may pass through the Bashi Channel between The Philippines and Taiwan.

Romero, a member of the House of Representatives, said there is a high possibility that the Japanese vessel Akatsuki Maru will pass through the strait.

He said it will be dangerous for the 4,800-ton ship to pass through the strait as it is one of the world's busiest sea routes.

A Philippines Air Force chief said he ordered Air Force pilots to carry out surveillance flights to track the route of the Japanese ship when it nears Philippine territorial waters.

Major Gen. Leopoldo Acot said airplanes will support coastal patrol boats in monitoring the country's waters to deter pirates from attacking the Japanese vessel and to prevent accidents from taking place in the Bashi Strait and other waters near the country.

The Akatsuki Maru left France's northwestern port of Cherbourg for Japan last Saturday carrying a ton of highly toxic plutonium which will be used for Japan's fast breeder reactor program.

The ship was loaded with 15 containers of plutonium that was reprocessed by France's state-run nuclear fuel company Cogma at its plant in La Hague, about 25 kilometers from Cherbourg.

Japan Says Ship To Avoid Waters

HK1211052792 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 11 Nov 92

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] President Ramos gets an assurance from Japan. The president said the Japanese government told him that their ship carrying plutonium will avoid Philippine territorial waters. The Akatsuki Maru is now enroute to Japan after loading over a ton of radioactive plutonium in France. Despite Tokyo's assurance, the president said the Philippine Navy and Air Force are still on alert for any eventuality.

Amnesty Program, Peace Initiative Divide NPA

HK1111072492 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The issue regarding the amnesty and peace initiative initiated by the Ramos administration has been the cause for division within the ranks of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA-NDF].

Rolando Llamas, a member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Socialist Ideology and Action, exposed an internal paper of the CPP-NPA-NDF which shows some members starting to be demoralized with their arms struggle with the government because they see a better life under the amnesty program and peace initiative.

The internal paper also says the communist rebels just want to be assured of a livelihood program if they decide to return to the fold of the lawful community. Others requested resettlement areas for former NPA rebels.

Former Rebel Says NPA Not Concerned With Peace

HK1111074592 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0450 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Interview with Father Conrado Balweg, Cordillera People's Liberation Army chairman, by Radyo ng Bayan reporter Jim Belasano at Camp Aguinaldo—live in English; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Text] [Belasano] *We have here with us today Father Conrado Balweg, chairman of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, who also heads the Cordillera Food Administration. We would like to hear from Father Balweg his comments regarding the ongoing peace efforts of the Ramos administration. What, sir, can you say about the present peace efforts of President Fidel Ramos?*

[Balweg] Concerning that effort of our president, there was a time when then Secretary Edelmiro Amante spoke with me specially regarding the Cordilleras, and how we would help each other regarding negotiations with the New People's Army [NPA]. My clear position was I do not believe that any peace talks nor negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]-NPA will be doing good to the Filipino people and for the government. Because when you talk about peace, the condition must be that you accept that the other party really believes in peace.

With my experience with the CPP-NPA, they do not really know about peace and what is good for the Filipino people. The only aim of the CPP-NPA is for them to set up a communist government and to overthrow the present one. This is their agenda. So *what* *peace are we going to talk about if our plan is different from theirs? Peace is not the concern of the CPP-NPA but politics is—that they become the government.*

They formed the New People's Army in order to attempt to overthrow the government. Without that, they can never assume political power. And so, in my experience with them, they do not know about peace. That is why I do not believe that there will be a good future for the peace effort of our president. [Belasano] This has been the short statement made by former rebel priest Father Conrado Balweg.

Misuari Insists on Foreign Venue for Peace Talks

HK1111135092 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Nov 92 p 16

[Report by Juliet M. Labog; italicized passage published in Tagalog]

[Text] Muslim secessionist leader Nur Misuari has accepted President Ramos' offer for peace talks but did not feel the time was right for him to return home, a source close to the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] chieftain said.

"*He is amenable to pushing through with the peace talks but he does not like the venue*" the source told the INQUIRER.

The President had offered Misuari to continue peace talks but in the country.

The source said Misuari informed him about his position in a telephone conversation last Sunday and Monday.

Misuari has formally transmitted his reply to Mr. Ramos' offer through the Libyan government. Tripoli is expected to forward it to the President anytime now.

Mr. Ramos has approved a recommendation of the National Unification Commission [NUC] that talks with the MNLF leader be resumed. The go-signal was given after the successful exploratory talks between Misuari and Rep. Eduardo Ermita (Balangas) and Rep. Nur Jaafar (Tawi-Tawi) in Tripoli last month.

But the President has maintained that the talks be held in the country. NUC Chairman Haydee Yorac said the government has agreed that the talks can be held in a Muslim province.

The President has also welcomed representatives of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] to sit in as observers.

During the exploratory talks, Misuari has asked for three conditions for the talks, namely that it be held in a "neutral venue," under the auspices of the OIC and within the framwork of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

The government has been expecting Misuari's "homecoming" since he mentioned in previous interviews that he was ready to return to Manila anytime to talk with the government about settling the Muslim secessionist problem.

But the source said Misuari told him he will only return to the country at the "appropriate time" and when "proper arrangements" for his safety have been secured by the government.

The source did not say what these "proper arrangements" are.

NPA Rebels Destroy Mining Equipment in Davao

HK1111150392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Armed men suspected to be New People's Army [NPA] members have attacked the Benguet Mining Corporation in barangay Napnapan, Pantukan, Davao del Norte and burned its equipment.

A report said the suspected NPA rebels were led by Eduardo Henelsa, alias Comrade Lando. The attack occurred at about 2000 [1200 GMT] on Thursday [5 November]. They allegedly disarmed the security guards and then burned property inside the mining compound.

Chief Inspector Dominador Cruzada of the Pantukan Police said the attack may be revenge because of the mining firm's refusal to pay the rebels' revolutionary taxes.

Meanwhile, Saturnino Medina, regional director for the Philippine National Police's Region 12, yesterday said the town of Maasim, Sarangani province is now peaceful and added that there are no more armed NPA rebels in the town's mountain area following a massive combat patrol launched in the mountains of Devon Hills and Malbag.

A total of 15 NPA rebels were allegedly slain in the military's offensive.

Communist Rebels To Declare Christmas Cease-Fire

HK1211045692 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 11 Nov 92

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army [NPA] will declare a unilateral cease-fire this Christmas and the new year. But Satur Ocampo clarifies that the traditional yuletide cease-fire will not be as long as the usual 70 hours.

Satur Ocampo, former spokesman of the National Democratic Front, said an extended unilateral cease-fire is not likely.

[Begin Ocampo recording] There is strong mutual suspicion between the two sides that any prolonged cease-fire may be taken advantage of. [end recording]

As for the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, speaker Jose de Venecia said today in statement he is hopeful the government and the rightist rebels can forge a truce this Christmas. Such a cease-fire, De Venecia said, could set a dramatic example to the NPA and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Former Detainees Support Cease-Fire

HK1211052692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Former political detainees Satur Ocampo, Rodolfo Baylosis, and Romulo Kintanar have expressed support regarding a proposal for a cease-fire between government troops and leftist rebels in celebration of the Christmas season this year.

Meanwhile, Congressman Bonifacio Gillego, Civil, Political and Human Rights Committee chairman, said his office will take steps in order to make the proposed agreement formal. Prior to this, House Speaker Jose de Venecia expressed confidence that the cease-fire will push through for a more peaceful Yuletide season.

Defense Chief Hopes for Peace, Reconciliation

HK1211050092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Roy C. Sinfuego]

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa expressed high hopes yesterday that the government's efforts for peace and national reconciliation will finally end the internal armed threats to the country.

The Department of National Defense (DND), which celebrates its 53rd anniversary today, cited the three major threats to internal security as the Muslim secessionist movement, communist rebellion, and the ultrarightist groups which launched several coup attempts against the government of former president Corazon Aquino.

Latest statistics from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) show that the strength of the Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army (CPP-NPA) decreased by 48 percent from its former strength of 25,800 in July, 1988.

The same statistics also estimated that the number of firearms still in the hands of communist guerrillas went down by 42 percent, while the number of insurgents-affected barangays shrunk by 67 percent.

Also, the rapid downfall of communism in Eastern Europe, the reunification of Germany, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States slowed down the communist movement in the Philippines.

Defense sources also said the Muslim secessionist movement is divided into the Western Mindanao-based Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) loyal to Nur Misuari, the Central Mindanao-based Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) under Hashum Salamat, and other sub-groups. These factions have considerably weakened due to internal leadership conflicts, lack of resources and dwindling foreign assistance from sympathetic Muslims nations.

The number of armed confrontations by the MILF and MNLF rebel forces with government troops was greatly reduced due to the local ceasefire agreements in the area.

Current MNLF and MILF strength is placed at 19,000 composed of regulars, inactive and reserve, down considerably from the original strength of 26,000 in 1987, while the firearms count of Muslim rebels has dwindled to 12,000.

Also, the Muslim guerrillas are having an acute shortage of ammunition, one of the reasons why they avoid prolonged clashes with government soldiers.

There is, however, an unverified report about a recent smuggling of firearms in the Palimbang and Lebak coastal areas by the rebels under Hadji Morad, a high MILF commander.

Meanwhile, the DND said military rebels and their civilian supporters have failed to recover from the series of failed coup attempts, subsequent arrests of their leaders and followers.

Only 12 rebel officers under former army colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan have not returned to the fold of the law, it was reported.

Congressmen Urge General Amnesty for All Rebels

HK1211052892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] House Speaker Jose de Venecia and four other congressmen have urged President Fidel V. Ramos to grant general and unconditional amnesty to all rebels in the country to achieve the desired peace.

In a resolution filed in Congress and submitted to Ramos, De Venecia's group recommended all rebels who are detained and have pending court cases be given a chance to be eligible for the amnesty program.

The government, they said, must accept the risk involved in granting general amnesty to all persons who have opposed the government if real and lasting peace is what everybody wants to achieve. De Venecia added even those who have contradicted the government are now beginning to side with amnesty program.

Province Governor Orders Unilateral Cease-Fire

HK1211052992 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Nov 92 p 16

[Report by Vincent M. Batic]

[Text] Borongan, Eastern Samar—A unilateral ceasefire is now in effect in Eastern Samar, the INQUIRER learned over the weekend.

Gov. Lutgardo Barbo has ordered the military and the police here to stop offensive operations against communist rebels for 65 days from Nov. 1 until Jan. 3, 1993.

Barbo said he declared the ceasefire last Oct. 30 after rebels in the province sent surrender feelers. Last month, Rodrigo Sugalan, commander of the New People's Army [NPA] in Eastern Visayas, surrendered to the military.

"They (communist rebels) are still testing the waters," Barbo said. "They are just gauging the sincerity of the government's peace initiative."

Sugalan expressed hope that the Ramos administration would help rebel returnees settle back to normal life by providing them livelihood and protecting them from harassments.

"More rebels are expected to surrender if these preconditions are respected," he told the INQUIRER.

The ceasefire declaration, it was learned, was overwhelmingly and actively supported by the province's peace and order and reconciliation development councils.

Army Col. Raul L. Marquez, commander of the Eastern Samar based 802nd Infantry Brigade, and Senior Supt. Oscar Calderon, PNP [Philippine National Police] provincial director, were among those who approved the ceasefire declaration.

Sentiments expressed by Eastern Samar mayors and several non- government organizations operating in the province indicated public support for the ceasefire.

According to Barbo, the following salient guidelines were agreed on for the implementation of the ceasefire:

- —The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and PNP in the province will suspend combat operations, search-and-destroy patrols and activities of special operation teams.
- —Security measures of military camps and the main supply routes of military units will continue to be undertaken.
- —Military and police patrols will continue to be in effect within a radius of 10 kilometers around camps and detachments.
- —Military and police elements pursue operations against "common crimes" initiated by criminal elements or even NPA guerillas in the province.
- —Safe conduct passes will be issued to prospective rebel returnees or anyone who wishes to avail himself of the 65-day respite from combat.

Barbo said he would have to approve safe conduct passes to be issued by Col. Marquez. The passes will be honored within the province.

"What we're doing is to implement and prove the sincerity of the government in its national policy of genuine unification and reconciliation," Barbo said. "And we'll be able to develop the countryside."

Rebel Leader Honasan To Come Out of Hiding

HK1211104792 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Italicized passages in English]

[Text] Former Colonel Gregorio Honasan has already met with two government officials regarding his plans to come out of hiding, a move which aims to boost confidence in the government's peace talks. General Lisandro Abadia, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has confirmed that talks between Honasan and several military leaders have taken place but has refused to divulge the details of the discussions.

However, DZRH was able to learn from several reliable sources that Honasan met twice with Lieutenant General Arturo Enrile, Philippine Army chief, and Rodolfo Caneso, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency coordinator, at Fort Bonifacio. The most recent meeting allegedly took place last week.

Apparently, Honasan came by car from the south, and although the military set up watchmen on all the roads toward Fort Bonifacio to inform Enrile of Honasan's impending arrival, Enrile was nonetheless surprised when he saw Honasan walking towards the Army Headquarters Building.

Our sources have also informed us that top military rebel leaders will be placed under military control as part of the *confidence-building measures* agreed upon during the meeting. It is now being discussed who, either Honasan or renegade Commodore Domingo Calajate, will be placed under military control. Honasan allegedly turned down the proposal that both he and Calajate should surface, in fear that they would endanger their *bargaining leverage* in the peace talks.

Only eight RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] officials remain on the loose, including Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel, Navy Captain Felix Turingan, and former Lieutenant Colonel Billy Bibit.

Senators Urge End to Talks With Westinghouse

HK1211040492 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Nov 92 p 6

[Text] Majority of senators yesterday supported a call for the government to stop negotiating with Westinghouse Electric Corp., resume the bribery suit against the company and begin converting the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant [BNPP] to a non-nuclear power facility.

"We should junk the settlement now because it will probably be sugar-coated and there is enough evidence to show that if we sign the agreement, we will be bleeding our people dry for a nuclear plant that will not even serve the purpose for why [as published] it is being built," Sen. Ernesto Herrera, who led the clamor for terminating the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-Westinghouse negotiations, said in a press statement.

Interviewed separately before the session, 11 other senators supported Herrera's call, saying it was time the government stood up against the multinational giant no matter how much the country stood to lose or gain.

"There's nothing more to lose," said Sen. Raul Roco, a staunch opponent of the BNPP deal.

"Let's end this (negotiations) now so we will see if our lawyers were worth their P1 billion [Philippine pesos] fee," Roco added, referring to the P1 billion the government spent in litigation costs in the bribery case filed in New Jersey against Westinghouse.

"There's no use for the negotiations. They're (Philippine and Westinghouse negotiators) the only ones talking anyway," said Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona reiterated his proposal to convert the BNPP into a combined cycle plant, fueled by natural gas and coal.

Sen. Blas Ople, however, said the Philippine panel led by Sen. Vicente Paterno who is negotiating with Westinghouse should first have a united stand on the Westinghouse offer to settle out-of-court the suit which alleges that the company and Burns and Roe Enterprises bribed the Marcos regime to corner the $2.2 billion BNPP contract.

Ople said a faction in the Philippine panel is in favor of ending the talks and resuming trial but another faction wants the talks to continue until Dec. 4, the deadline set by the New Jersey court for the two parties to enter into an out-of-court settlement.

Trial was suspended last March after former President Aquino ordered Philippine negotiators to study the Westinghouse offer to pay the government $10 million in cash and $90 million in credits, repair the BNPP for $400 million, $300 million of which would be loans borrowed from the U.S. Eximbank by the Philippines and operate the plant for 30 years for a total of $1.2 billion.

Thailand

'General Improvement' in U.S. Relations Expected

BK1211015392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] Thai-U.S. relations under Bill Clinton are expected to undergo a general improvement, the House Foreign Affairs Committee said yesterday.

The Government's clear emphasis on issues such as human rights and child abuse will enhance Thailand's ties with the US under President-elect Clinton because of his special interest in these areas, said committee spokesman Sutham Saengprathum.

The committee concluded at its meeting yesterday that relations between the two countries had returned to normal since the elected government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai came to office, he said.

With an elected government in place, the US has resumed aid suspended after the February 23 coup.

The committee believes good relations in both economic and social terms will continue under the Democrat president.

This is because Mr Clinton has given special attention to human rights, the environment and unfair trade practices.

Thailand clearly stated in the government policy that it would emphasise solving problems involving the environment, human rights, child labour and child prostitution, Mr Sutham said.

The committee believes trade conflicts between the two countries which have been going on for the past four years will persist, but developments will depend on bilateral trade negotiations.

It will also depend on the US choice of replacement for US Trade Representative Carla Hills, the PDP MP [Palang Tham Party Member of Parliament] said.

Special attention will be given by the Thai Government to the USTR review of more than 100 import items from Thailand included on the US watchlist.

The watchlist is scheduled for review on December 15.

The committee believes the chance that some items will be dropped from the list is enhanced by Thailand's general situation.

One consideration is the Thai Government's policy towards granting back state enterprise workers' right to form unions.

The denial of union rights to state enterprise workers is seen as a violation of basic human rights by the US.

The prospect is also enhanced by the Government's good treatment of Burmese residents in exile, the PDP MP said, adding that a centre had been set up in Ratchaburi to house Burmese students.

These developments will be interpreted by the US that Thailand shares similar interests, he said.

The committee will tour Cambodian border areas before the end of the month to take a first-hand look at the border trade, said Mr Sutham.

The value of trade in areas now under Khmer Rouge control is estimated at about 3,000 million baht a year.

Mr Sutham said the purpose of the trip was to assess how UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge would affect Thai traders.

World Response to Chuan Government 'Positive'

BK0811023092 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 8 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] The response to the democratically-elected government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai from countries around the world has largely been positive except Indonesia which regards his administration as susceptible to military interference.

Their reaction was compiled by the Foreign Ministry from talks with academics and scholars, business and political leaders, and press reports in a number of countries including Canada, Japan, and the United States after His Majesty the King appointed the Prime Minister and the Cabinet in September.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the media and former military leaders in Indonesia still thought there was a possibility for the armed forces to interfere in politics if the government lacked stability and unity.

But apart from that, comments on both the Prime Minister and his Cabinet were widely favourable.

The press in these countries hailed Mr Chuan's as a professional, clean, polite and honest politician who has been in politics for more than 10 years, according to the statement.

The Trang MP was praised as a leader who is recognised by people from all walks of life.

His acceptance comes from the fact that "he comes from the middle class with neither a tall academic background nor military experience," it said.

Academics, businessmen and the mass media in the United States, Canada, Italy, Israel, Malta, Japan and Singapore were optimistic about the development of democracy in Thailand under the elected government, saying that it will boost the image of Thailand and give confidence to international investors.

The press also paid due attention to three Cabinet ministers who were appointed from outside—Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Phanitchphakdi and Amnuai Wirawan and Finance Minister Tharin Nimmahaemin.

The media commented that the appointments were an appropriate move for Thailand's liberal economic policy.

"Overall, the ministerial appointments were satisfactory and that will enhance the government's stability," the statement said.

The Australian government, as a sign of approval, decided to resume contacts between senior officials of the two countries suspended since the May bloodshed.

In Japan, the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and the press hoped that the Thai government will stand out as an example of democracy for other countries in the Southeast Asian region.

The government of Israel however, refrained from taking a definite stand until Thailand had made clear its foreign policy towards the country and the Middle East region.

Overall, the statement said, the press in many countries are keeping a close eye on Government's performance, especially its promise "to reduce the role of the armed forces in politics... and to reduce the gap between people in Bangkok and rural areas and fight corruption under the leadership of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai."

Chuan, Cambodia's Hun Sen Discuss Sanctions

BK1011140992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] After the failure of the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Beijing, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen called on the Thai prime minister to propose that Thailand join the attempt to boycott the Khmer Rouge. This morning, the prime minister and his party met with Hun Sen and the Cambodian defense and foreign ministers. The prime minister disclosed to newsmen after the one-hour meeting with the Cambodian visitors that the Cambodian prime minister asked for Thailand's cooperation to exert pressure on the Khmer Rouge. He said this matter will have to be made public as a government policy. The policy will abide by the UN peace plan and aims to create peace in Cambodia.

[Begin Chuan recording] It is difficult to just lay barbed wire to prevent the passage of people. People on both sides of the border are relatives; it is impossible to prohibit them from seeing each other. Regarding what the government's policy will be, the government will inform the people and it believes that the people will cooperate. [end recording]

The Cambodian prime minister also informed the Thai prime minister about the failure of the SNC meeting, saying perhaps the Khmer Rouge feared losing the general election.

After the call on the Thai prime minister, Hun Sen joined Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri at the Imperial Hotel for lunch. He then gave an interview with newsmen before leaving for the airport for a flight home. He said Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to work together to create peace in Cambodia. Regarding the Khmer Rouge refusal to honor the Paris peace accord, Hun Sen said he awaits a resolution of the UN Security Council.

[Begin Hun Sen recording in Cambodian followed by translation into English] During the course of the past year of the implementation of the agreements, we have achieved a lot without the cooperation of the Khmer Rouge. Therefore, ... [end recording]

Chuan, Prasong Report on Talks

BK1111021892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Nov 92 pp 1,2

[Text] Thailand will cooperate with the United Nations to bring peace to Cambodia but will only comply with a resolution that is compatible with Thai law, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

"This does not mean we will not cooperate with the United Nations ... We will inform the United Nations what we cannot do," he stressed.

The Foreign Minister made the point to reporters after attending talks between Prime Minister Chuan Likpai and Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen. He also had lunch with Mr Hun Sen.

Foreign Minister Prasong at the same time made it clear that Thailand would continue to allow business transactions with the Khmer Rouge as long as there is no formal ban from the Supreme National Council (SNC) on trade by all Cambodian factions.

"Thailand will act accordingly if there is an SNC resolution against trading by every group, " he said.

Factions loyal to Phnom Penh and the two non-communist groups are seated with the Khmer Rouge in the SNC.

Emerging from talks with Mr Hun Sen, Prime Minister Chuan told reporters that he had made clear the difficulties of sealing off what he stressed was a "very long" border with Cambodia.

He also cited Thailand's promotion of free enterprise as the reason for trading activities with the Khmer Rouge.

The talks took place a few hours before Mr Hun Sen was to head back to Phnom Penh. He arrived here on Monday, following international talks in Peking that failed to persuade the Khmer Rouge to disarm according to the peace agreement signed in Paris a year ago.

According to Prime Minister Chuan, Mr Hun Sen was of the belief that it would be difficult for the Khmer Rouge to join the peace process at this point but he has "not closed the door" on the possibility.

Speaking to reporters after arriving from Peking on Monday, Mr Hun Sen urged the United Nations to put pressure on the guerrillas by imposing trade sanctions and called on Thailand to close the border.

Foreign Minister Prasong said Prime Minister Chuan reiterated Thailand's willingness to cooperate with the UN to bring peace to Cambodia. The Prime Minister pointed out that he had stressed that peace in Cambodia was Thailand's "ultimate goal."

Foreign Minister Prasong noted that Mr Hun Sen did not seek the closure of the entire border, but wanted checkpoints to be set up in certain areas in the event of possible trade sanctions.

Mr Prasong and Defence Minister Wichit Sukmak joined Mr Hun Sen and Prime Minister Chuan in the 45-minute discussion at Government House.

Prime Minister Chuan stressed that there was no specific discussion on the end to trading with the guerrillas or the closure of the border.

"We only wanted him (Mr Hun Sen) to understand the real situation," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Chuan asked Mr Hun Sen to explain the problems in the war-torn country that had led the guerrillas to hold out against the peace agreement.

Mr Hun Sen told Mr Chuan that the fear of losing the elections was the main reason for the Khmer Rouge's intransigence.

Mr Hun Sen at the same time ruled out the possibility of amending the Paris peace agreement signed a year ago, saying this would be tantamount to admitting "defeat."

Initial reports said the French and Indonesian organisers of the Peking talks suggested after the collapse of the discussions on Sunday, that adjustments might have to be made to the agreement.

But informed sources said adjustments would be made to arrangements for the "implementation" of the peace agreement rather than to the agreement itself

Mr Hun Sen told reporters on Monday that he was in favour of some "military aspects" being added to the agreement.

In their discussion yesterday, Mr Hun Sen said he was aware that the trading activities are a long-standing problem.

Prime Minister Chuan stressed that the traders were allowed to engage in these activities because Thailand promoted free enterprise. He also noted that the activities were undertaken by the private sector.

"There was no talk of stopping trade with the Khmer Rouge," or a parallel boycott of trading across the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, he added.

"We also did not talk of sealing off the border," he said. "We were of the view that even if we closed the border, it would be difficult to stop such trade activities because the border is long and the people on either side are related," he added.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan stressed that Thailand did not have the manpower to enforce the closure of the border. Foreign Minister Prasong has invited Thai traders doing business along the 824-kilometre border and inside Cambodia to consultations aimed at cushioning the impact of possible trade sanctions.

The Foreign Minister at the same time expressed concern about the possibility of new fighting in Cambodia which would cause a new influx of Cambodian refugees into Thailand as well as pushing back the progress of the Cambodian economy.

But the repatriation of Cambodian refugees here since 1979 would proceed as planned, he added.

An estimated 164,000 Cambodians remain to be repatriated in time for UN-supervised elections in that country around May next year.

The minister stressed that time is pressing and urged all countries concerned to push on with their efforts to bring the Khmer Rouge back to the peace process.

The Foreign Minister is due to meet former Cambodian prime minister Son Sann, the leader of a non-communist faction in the SNC, later this month.

Meanwhile, Opposition members of Parliament said Thailand should assert its influence to persuade the Khmer Rouge to comply with the Paris peace agreement.

Former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan argued that the UN would soon impose sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, and Thailand would have to abide by them.

He warned that continued intransigence by the guerrillas would reverse the progress of the policy to turn Indochina from a battlefield to a market place.

Seritham Party leader Athit Urairat said Thailand had covertly supported the Khmer Rouge all along and therefore should use its influence to obtain their return to the peace process

Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet said the four previously warring Cambodian factions were brought to the negotiating table by Gen Chatchai when he was prime minister.

Minister Prasong Meets Cambodia's Son Sann

BK1111125392 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Excerpt] At 1100 today, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri reported to newsmen on his meeting with Son Sann, the Khmer Serei [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] leader, which took place earlier this morning at the Foreign Ministry. Prasong said Son Sann congratulated him on his appointment as foreign minister and gave him a briefing on the meeting in Beijing. Son Sann felt that every Cambodian faction should unite because fighting, which results from disunity, will hurt the Cambodian people. Prasong said Thailand wanted to see durable peace in Cambodia and unity among the Cambodian factions so that they will be able to solve their own problems, otherwise the victims will be the Cambodian people themselves.

Asked what Son Sann felt about the Khmer Rouge's refusal to join the peace process, Prasong said the Khmer Serei leader noted that the Khmer Rouge continued to bring up the point that the election will not be fair as long as Vietnamese soldiers remained in Cambodia. Moreover, the four Cambodian factions in the Supreme National Council would not be able to work fully because of lack of authority. Therefore, it was possible that the Khmer Rouge were still concerned about this matter. [passage omitted]

'Unidentified Force' Kills 9 in Border Province

BK1011131692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpt] An unidentified force raided and seized a Border Patrol Police [BPP] operational base in Umphang District, Tak Province, killing five BPP members, three forestry officials, and one villager. Three people are also missing. The incident occurred between 0400-0500 this morning. The unidentified force, of unknown size, used knives to attack forestry officials in the east section of the Thung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Reserve in Umphang District and villagers in Ban Mae Chantha, killing four altogether at Thi Bake. At about the same time, the force used firearms to attack the 34th BPP operational base about one km away, and set it afire. According to a report, about 10 BPP men stationed there fled the base, which is in the jungle about 120 km from Umphang District. At 1700, the BPP headquarters in Tak Province received a report from the search team which said five BPP men were killed. They are: Police Sergeants Prayong Prasoet, Sanguan Phromsit, Khongsit Phuttharaksa, Thana Phimsan, and Pricha Chuncharoen. Other BPP men—Private Loetrit Phairot, Sergeant Sai Phanphut, and Private Sanam Sangsanit—are still missing. Sergeant Wichai Charoensap survived the ordeal.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Suphot Charoensuk, the deputy commander of the BPP force in Tak Province, believes the attacking force to be former communist terrorists who still have influence in Sangkha Buri and Umphang Districts. About 30 to 50 of these former communists operate in the area. [passage omitted]

'Fanatic' Karen Group Blamed

BK1211014592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 92 p 1

[Excerpts] Three Forestry Department officials have escaped the attack by a suspected Karen splinter group during which five Border Patrol [BPP] policemen and a Thai villager were killed on Monday in Tak's Umphang District. Earlier reports said nine Thais were killed in separate attacks on a forestry station and a BPP base at Ban Mae Chanta in the border district, but three forestry officials are now known to have escaped.

They were identified as Akharaphon Muangkham, Samruai Kanisut and Amonchai Phongsamrit.

The officials said they were held hostage at gunpoint by their assailants but later released in a nearby jungle. The three were yesterday airlifted to Umphang District.

The attackers took three five-round shotguns, a typewriter and a hand-held transceiver before setting fire to the officials' temporary shelter.

An Interior Ministry report yesterday said a religious fanatic Karen group calling themselves "Talarku" are believed responsible for killing three Wildlife Conservation Division staff in Thung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary on Sunday before going on to attack the forestry office and BPP Unit 3437 at Ban Mae Chantha in Umphang District. Three other BPP men were injured and airlifted to Umphang Hospital on Monday for medical treatment and another man identified as Private Sanam Thongsai is still missing. [passage omitted]

Deputy Interior Minister Suthat Ngoenmun left Bangkok for Tak yesterday to attend bathing rites for the dead police officers.

The Interior Ministry report said the motive for the attacks was believed to be a show of power by the Talarku who have established a hermit centre called "Sitthi Ariya" at Ban Chong Phae in Tambon Mae Chan and wanted to expand their influence over Karen villagers at Ban Tey Thongku, Ban Muan Kua and nearby villages.

To show their power over other Karen groups as well as eliminate the influence of established religious group the Talarku decided to attack the Thai officials and BPP so they could seize their weapons.

The report said the Talarku normally only carried knives. The BPP yesterday convinced villagers frightened from their homes to return.

Army Chief Wimon Wongwanit said the Talarku has had problems in that past with forestry officials and the BPP after they killed wild game in preference to slaughtering their own domestic livestock.

Gen Wimon denied the attackers were foreign armed forces, saying they were simply Karen villagers armed with shotguns.

The Karen National Union [KNU] issued statement yesterday denying its involvement in the attacks. It said no KNU troops were in the area at the time of the attacks and the nearest KNU base was a day's walking distance through deep jungles and over high mountains.

It claimed the area was inhabited by the Talarku, which it said has close ties with the Communist Party of Thailand and was hostile to the KNU.

The statement said the KNU respected Thailand's sovereignty and had always tried to live in peace and harmony with Thai citizens along the Burmese border. They also denied having any involvement in the narcotics trade.

Supreme Commander Returns From Rangoon Visit

BK1011134492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] At the Air Force Headquarters, Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari said that because he had just returned from a visit to Burma he has not received a report on the clash between the Border Patrol Police [BPP] and an unidentified force. He expects to receive pertinent information this evening.

On his visit to Burma, Woranat said border problems were among the issues discussed.

[Begin recording] [Woranat in progress] ...it is an issue that we must accept.

[Correspondent] Sir, there was a report today that some BPP men and forestry officials were killed, as well as others. Have you received a report on this?

[Woranat] I have just heard it from you now.

[Correspondent] Who was the attacking party?

[Woranat] I do not know; I have just gotten out of the plane. Let me think first before making any remarks.

[Correspondent] During your visit did you discuss expulsion of Burmese minority groups, particularly the Karens, from Thai territory?

[Woranat] That issue is a Burmese domestic affair. Regarding Burmese minority groups, as a neighbor it would not be right for us to interfere in their dispute. [end recording]

Paper on Constructive Engagement, Border Troubles

BK1111050292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Nov 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Ten More Hapless Victims of 'Constructive Engagement'"]

[Text] Lawlessness and violence apparently remain the norm rather than the exception along the trouble-plagued Thai-Burmese border. Early Monday an outpost of the Border Patrol Police [BPP] in Umphang district of Tak was attacked and burned to the ground. Six policemen were killed, two wounded and three others are missing. Before they overran the outpost, the attackers also slaughtered three wildlife rangers living in a house near the BPP outpost and a villager—bringing the death toll to 10. A senior BPP officer yesterday blamed the bloodshed on ex-communists who are still very influential in the border area. Some suspect it was the work of ethnic rebels fighting the Burmese military forces across the border. Still others believe the attackers were intruding Burmese soldiers who had mistaken their victims for ethnic rebels.

Survivors from the attack should be able to tell. But first the three missing policemen must be found and rescued as soon as possible. Whoever the attackers are, the Chuan administration must make every effort to bring them to justice as soon as possible. There must also be an official probe to find out why the wildlife rangers and the BPP unit were so vulnerable and unprepared to defend themselves.

Another Border Mystery?

Let's hope this will not become another unresolved mystery similar to the ambush of the BPP team in deep forest near the Thai-Burmese border in Petchaburi province last August. In that case, the BPP was at first quite indifferent to the disappearance of the men it sent into the forest to investigate the presence of what appeared to be a huge narcotics production base. Only after relatives of the missing patrol men complained to the press did the BPP begin a search for the lost patrol. Four survivors were found, but five others and their guide were killed by heavily armed men identified as only "some alien force".

A highly-publicized mobilization of force by the BPP followed. After weeks of waiting for foul weather to clear, the BPP finally sent in airborne search-and-destroy teams to the area where the ambush occurred. But they found no trace of the alien force and they never discovered the suspected narcotics camp either. Strangely, the BPP claimed the operation a "complete success" because there were only light casualties—mostly from insect bites, malaria and minor cuts from brushing against bamboo and thorny branches. But they didn't bother to find out who were responsible for the ambush, even though some BPP officers believed the alien force maintained close contact with their "masters" outside the jungle.

News of the bloody attack in Umphang reached Bangkok yesterday while Supreme Commander ACM Woranat Aphichari was on a one-day official visit to Rangoon, presumably as part of Thailand's continuing policy on "constructive engagement" with the Burmese junta. But he and his hosts in Rangoon don't have any idea of who the attackers are.

If the Umphang attack didn't warrant a special mention during the supreme commander's visit to Rangoon, then what will? The mysterious ambush on the BPP team in Phetchaburi may never be brought up in any Thai-Burmese discussion either. Neither will the recent arrest and detention of the Muang Mae Hong Son district chief and his team by Burmese border troops.

On the other hand the ongoing clashes between the Burmese military forces and various groups of ethnic rebels along the Thai-Burmese border don't seem to bother Thai military and political leaders at all. Under the "constructive engagement" policy, Thailand will just turn a blind eye and continue to treat the border clashes as internal affairs of Burma.

But sometimes the border clashes spill over and inflict casualties on Thai citizens. Burmese troops are also illegally occupying at least two Thai border areas in Mae Hong Son and Chumphon, claiming they are Burmese territory, and have so far refused to leave peacefully. Such intrusions are clearly not the internal affairs of Burma but serious violations of Thai territorial integrity. What do the Thai leaders advocating business as usual with Rangoon under the "constructive engagement" policy have to say about these encroachments?

The Thai-Burmese border committee's regional bureau will meet in Chiang Mai during Nov 16-20. What they will discuss remains a secret. But they plan to jointly announce their "success" on Nov 18 and then go sightseeing and play golf on the last two days so that military officers and civilian authorities from both sides can get to know one another better.

The Crux of the Problem

The crux of the problem may not be their unfamiliarity with one another. In fact the Burmese side knows full well that the Thais covet lucrative timber, fishery and mining concessions in Burma, whereas the Thai side knows the Burmese troops often need safe passage through Thai border territory to launch surprise attacks on camps of the ethnic rebels that are inaccessible from the Burmese side. Caught in between the two sides are the heavily armed ethnic rebels who would do anything to keep alive their hope and struggle for more political rights.

Those Thais killed in Umphang were simply hapless victims of the "constructive engagement" policy under which the current lawlessness is tolerated and falsely advertised as part of the improving situation along the border and the cordial relations between Bangkok and Rangoon.

Certificate Requirement Imposed on Burmese Timber

BK1111055292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Nov 92 p 28

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday decided to reimpose a requirement that timber and wood products have proper certificates of origin if they are imported from Burma.

The decision is a response to complaints from the Burmese government that logs and products crossing the border into Thailand is often from rebel-controlled areas and traded without Rangoon's authorisation.

It is also apparently a response to accusations made in Parliament last month that Deputy Finance Minister Bunchu Trithong was involved in timber trade of this kind, although ministers and officials did not mention the accusations yesterday.

The decision reverses a Commerce Ministry announcement on February 9 this year under which wood imported from Burma no longer required official certificates of origin.

Wood and wood products of all kinds except when components of trucks and boats will need the certificates for customs clearance if they cross into Thailand at border points in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Tak, Phetchaburi, Mae Hong Son, Kanchanaburi, Chumphon, Ratchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Ranong.

The Burmese government submitted its request for the reimposition through the Thai National Security Council.

Paper Previews Border Meeting With Burma

BK1211020192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] Chiang Mai—The Thai-Burmese Border Committee will hold a three-day meeting starting on Monday to discuss pressing border problems including fighting between Burmese troops and minority groups and the presence of Burmese troops in Mae Hong Son.

The Thai team to attend the meeting at the Chiang Mai Hill Hotel will be led by the Third Army Region commander and includes representatives from the First and Fourth Army regions as well as the governors of Mae Hong Son, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Tak provinces which share borders with Burma.

The commander of Border Patrol Police [BPP] Zone 3 and the commissioner of the Provincial Police Zone 3 will also attend the meeting as well as concerned officials from the Supreme Command and the Foreign Ministry.

Third Army Region spokesman Col Banyong Sirasunthon said that the topics to be discussed are security along the border, specifying border-pass points, clear demarcation of the border, Thailand's enforcement of its river banks which will not affect the waterway and the incursion of armed forces as a result of unclear borders.

Col Banyong said that the Thai side has long proposed the setting up of a communications centre on each side of the border to facilitate and speed up communications about situations that arise on the border.

Burma has agreed to this in principle but said it did not yet have the budget. The proposal will be raised again.

At Ban Nai Soi of Mae Hong Son's Muang District about 100 Burmese troops have occupied Hill 644 which is located two kilometres inside Thailand since the 3rd of this month.

Four companies of rangers and two BPP units have been sent to the area to push them out.

Col Banyong said that in accordance with procedures in such cases patrol planes were sent over the area as a sign to the intruding forces that they are on Thai territory and the Burmese Embassy has been contacted.

The next step is to fire smoke artillery shells at the area, but if that fails they will be forcibly pushed out.

Col Banyong said that he did not think this would be necessary and Thailand did not want to take such such action with the border talks scheduled for Monday.

"Before every meeting of the border committee this always happens," he said.

He said this may be because Burma wanted to create a criteria for Thailand to cooperate with their attempts to suppress minority groups.

He said that Thai troops will observe policy and repel all foreign troops from its soil. Once they are over the border it is the internal affair of Burma and Thailand will not interfere.

Sources said that Burma is expected to raise the minority group, issue but Thai officials are likely to reply that they have nothing to do with it.

Sources said that in fact the Burmese troops occupying Hill 649 came to eliminate minority troops that were there. Once they were ousted the Burmese troops prepared defensive positions, indicating that they intended to stay.

Thai troops yesterday wrote a large poster in Burmese and placed it where the foreign force could see with binoculars. The poster called for negotiations between them. Thai troops did not want to get closer to the Burmese position for fear of provoking a shooting match.

Meanwhile, 2,000 Burmese refugees in the area affected by the recent fighting are falling ill.

The kamnan [headman] of Ban Nai Soi has asked the governor that nurses and health officials be sent to look after them since a large number have fallen ill with malaria, skin diseases and diarrhoea.

However, none has yet died. Nurses and health officials have already been sent to the refugees, a source said.

Thailand will not recognise Burmese minority groups, only the government in Rangoon, Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri said yesterday.

He made the comment when asked about a House committee plan to propose Thai recognition for the minorities as a way to end drug trafficking.

The proposal would render meaningless Thailand's policy towards Burma, he said. "It would be a huge mistake."

Thailand accepts only the government in Rangoon, he added.

The House committee says that recognising Burmese minorities encamped along the Tbai border would help stop drug trafficking at the source.

Committee spokesman Alongkon Phonlabut said the minorities produce some 2,000 tons of opium a year, but as recognised groups they would be compelled to obey international law.

The committee was set up last month to study problems along the Thai-Burmese border, including drug trafficking, and is expected to present its findings to the Lower House next week.

Cabinet Approves Proposal for Trade Talks Office

BK1011144792 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai presided over the Cabinet meeting at Government House. The Cabinet today approved the proposal made by Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak for the establishment of the Office for Coordination of International Economic Affairs, or OCIEA, to act as secretariat of the Committee on International Economic Affairs Policy, which is under the supervision of the chairman of the Committee on International Economic Affairs Policy.

The OCIEA's function and responsibility is to coordinate work regarding policies on international economic affairs; collect documents and data from concerned agencies on international economic affairs to use to map out a joint strategy to pursue negotiations with foreign countries; study and prepare analyses on policies, trends, and measures concerning international economic relations and the impact from the implementation of international agreements, including international trade relations. Results of studies will be used to prepare for international meetings, talks, investment, and economic cooperation.

The OCIEA will be an agency under the Office of the Prime Minister's Secretariat. At the initial stage, the OCIEA will borrow personnel from other agencies for temporary service at the new office.

Further on New Trade Office

BK1111040492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Nov 92 p 28

[Text] In a bid to rescue Thailand's international trade negotiating policy from severe inter-ministry rivalries, the Cabinet yesterday approved the creation of a new agency staffed by officials drawn from the different ministries.

The new Office for Coordination of International Economic Affairs (CIEA) will be a small organisation coming under the Prime Minister's Secretariat within the PM's Office officials said yesterday. Ultimate responsibility will lie with Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak.

The office's purpose will be to study the impact of proposed international agreements, to prepare position papers for trade negotiations and to serve as the secretariat for the ministerial-level International Economic Relations Policy Committee whose current chairman is Dr Suphachai. It will look at economic cooperation as well as negotiations.

According to deputy government spokeswoman Sudarat Keyuraphan the new office will not actually participate in negotiations.

That would make it different from such agencies as the Office of the US Trade Representative which handles US trade negotiations with a Cabinet member as its head.

But with one of Thailand's most experienced trade negotiators Commerce Ministry inspector-general Karun Kitthisathaphon, tipped to be appointed head of the new office Dr Suphachai could still decide to use the services of staff members for some international bargaining sessions.

Ms Sudarat said yesterday the Cabinet had not yet appointed anybody to the new office. Initially they would be seconded from various ministries, she said.

A Commerce Ministry source said one staff member would be appointed from each of the three key ministries—Commerce, Foreign Affairs and Finance—which have been at loggerheads over who should take the lead in international negotiations.

Sources revealed that some discontent still remained outside the Commerce Ministry yesterday. One official complained about two items on the agenda of the international economic policy committee's meeting scheduled for Friday, the committee's first meeting since the new Government was appointed.

On the agenda are: the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the effect of the US elections on Thailand's trade interests, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the deadlocked Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

The AFTA should be the responsibility of the Finance Ministry as it was in the Anan governments while analysing the US elections should be handled by the Foreign Ministry, the official said.

A Cabinet statement issued yesterday said the new office has been given four duties:

Coordinating Thailand's international economic policy and devising negotiating positions in bilateral, regional and multilateral trade talks on goods, services and intellectual property rights related to trade and other issues. Among the purposes are to create a continuity in policy and to identify obstacles to trade.

Preparing documents on international trade issues and bargaining strategies

Studying the impact of policies and international agreements as part of the preparation of bargaining positions

Serving as secretariat for the International Economic Relations Policy Committee.

When the economic relation committee was formed under the chairmanship of former deputy prime minister Phong Sarasin in the Prem administration, the Foreign and Commerce ministries share the secretarial work through their Economic Affairs and Business Economics departments.

The Foreign Ministry was responsible for the administration of the committee, such as writing minutes and calling meetings, while the Commerce Ministry handled research work.

Although this was intended as compromise between the two rival agencies, continued differences disrupted work. During one of the Anan governments, the Commerce Ministry was given sole responsibility for the committee's secretarial tasks.

The committee's members include the ministers of commerce, foreign affairs, finance, industry, agriculture and transport and communications.

Divisions have worsened over the past year or so, particularly over the AFTA.

Former prime minister Anan Panyarachun handed responsibility for negotiating AFTA to his finance minister, Suthi Singsane—a move that upset the Commerce Ministry.

Relations between Commerce and Foreign Affairs, meanwhile, deteriorated over the Foreign Ministry's leadership of Thailand's position in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group. Some Foreign Ministry officials even argue that the Commerce Ministry should not be in charge of Thailand's negotiations in the Uruguay Round of world trade talks because the subjects covered are too broad.

The disputes came to a head last month when ASEAN economic ministers met in Manila to discuss AFTA and were complicated by the fact that the meeting was being held at the same time as the new Thai Government's policy statement was being debated in Parliament.

Newly-appointed Dr Suphachai was forced to emphasise to the rest of ASEAN that the new Government was still committed to the AFTA initiative of its predecessor.

Petrochemical Industry Concerned Over AFTA

BK1111044092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Nov 92 p B12

[Text] The implementation of the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) will imperil the overall development of Thailand's petrochemical industry, according to a major petrochemical producer.

Aphiphon Pasawat, managing director of Thai Polyethylene Co Ltd, cited the huge turnover worth more than Bt [baht] lOO billion to the petrochemical and plastics industries as something the government should seriously be concerned about jeopardizing. Afta will impede the chances of developing the industry from the upstream to intermediate to the downstream process, he said.

"The petrochemical industry is a foundation of any industrialized-oriented country, but how to reach that objective takes years," he said.

Speaking at a seminar on "The Impact from Afta on Thai Petrochemical Industry" organized by the Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand yesterday, Aphiphon warns that an immediate reduction of the tax barrier against petrochemical imports will cause operations of thousands of Thai petrochemical and chemical plants to run into difficulties because their products will lose competitiveness with Singapore.

"The Thai petrochemical industry is in the starting period, and the industry might not be able to survive if Thai companies have to face strong competition from overseas," he said.

Chemicals is one of the 15 sectors destined for an accelerated tariff cut under the framework of Afta. Asean members are required to cut the import tariff on chemicals to 0-5 per cent within seven to lO years, starting from 1993.

Aphiphon said: "The Thai petrochemical industry still has prospects, if only the government provides some protection in the starting period."

Currently, the plastic pellet tariff imports rank around 40 per cent, and the finished plastic products, 60 per cent.

Petrochemical and plastic producers expressed their concern that if the government immediately abolishes the tax protection, the plastic and petrochemical plants—which have just commenced their operations—might face the problem of insufficient working capital, while newcomers might not be able to run their businesses since the financial institutions would be hesitant to grant credit to the industry which is unlikely to survive.

According to the Board of Investment (BOI) study, the government should start accelerating tariff cuts five years after the National Petrochemical Complex II (NPC) starts operations. The NPC II is scheduled to commence in 1995.

"The proposal is quite sound, I expect that by then we will be able to compete," he said.

Thailand's petrochemical industry is 20 years behind that of South Korea, and lO years behind Taiwan's. But if compared with Asean neighbours the Thai petrochemical industry is second only to Singapore.

"Malaysia and Indonesia are currently lagging behind us. But within the next few years Thai producers should expect fiercer competition from them," he said.

Two upstream petrochemical plants in Malaysia are due to commence within three years from now, while the Indonesian petrochemical project will start running during the relevant period.

"Indonesia has potential to develop the industry due to its rich natural gas, and oil reserves," he said.

Dr Siri Chirapongphan, from the Bangkok Bank, suggested that with the Afta deadline drawing nearer, the government should start seriously studying the Afta impact on each industrial sector.

"The government should look into the structure of production cost. What really makes us lack the competitiveness against others," he said.

The government should also review the import duty on raw materials, he said. "The import duty on raw materials and equipment should be cut to serve the Thai industrial sector. I think that the government should not stick with the concept that the import duty would continue to be the country's major source of income," he said.

The banker suggested the Asean private sector should also cooperate in recommending the 'country of origin' content of Asean exports.

"Thailand's production capacity currently is close to that of Singapore, but I am worried that an elimination of the tax barrier might prompt Singapore to import the products from a non-Asean country and re-export," he said.

Vietnam

Telecommunications Links Established With U.S.

BK1111150592 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 11—Vietnam and the United States this afternoon officially signed in Hanoi an agreement to establish direct telecommunications links between the two countries. Signatories to the agreement were the director general of the Vietpam's Directorate General of Posts and Telecommunication, Mr. Dang Van Than, and the vice-chairman of AT&T in charge of Asia-Pacific, Mr. [name indistinct].

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the two officials described the event as a humanitarian contribution to the normalization of the relations between the two countries.

Phan Van Khai Meets U.S. Businessmen

BK1011085592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 3 November in Hanoi, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received and had amicable talks with a U.S. trade delegation from Hong Kong led by Mr. (McCain), president of American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. This was the delegation's third visit to Vietnam to survey the local market.

At the reception, the deputy prime minister informed the American businessmen that despite the U.S. embargo against Vietnam, foreign companies have paid increasing attention to the Vietnamese market and that, to date, there are 500 joint venture projects with a total capital of approximately $4 billion.

He said: Vietnam maintains that the U.S. Government should soon change its decision, shake off the past, and lift the embargo in order create favorable conditions for American investors to do business with Vietnam at a time when Vietnam's policy on economic cooperation is highly favorable to foreign investors.

Mr. (McCain) told the deputy prime minister that that is also the desire of the majority of American businessmen and industrialists and that this has been mentioned to their government on many occasions. He said:

The delegation's visit is aimed at exploring the possibilities of future investment and trade cooperation with Vietnam, when the embargo is lifted.

Hanoi Backs Sanctions Against Khmer Rouge

BK1111105492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 11 Nov 92

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Hanoi, Nov 11 (AFP)—Vietnam supported sanctions against the Khmer Rouge for blocking the peace process in Cambodia, but did not want the faction excluded from any settlement, a highly-placed Vietnamese official said here Wednesday.

"After the failure of talks in Beijing last week, there must be strong international pressure exerted on the Khmer Rouge," the official said, adding that "the trade route between them and Thailand must be cut."

The Khmer Rouge has been blocking the U.N.-sponsored peace plan in Cambodia put in place a year ago by refusing to disarm their troops and preventing the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in zones they control.

Their control zones are for the most part situated along the border with Thailand, where the faction has established a lucrative trade in precious stones and timber with Thai businessmen.

But the Vietnamese official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a closure of the border, which is currently under consideration in Bangkok, would be very difficult "as trade is profitable for both sides."

The United Nations' demand that the border be closed has become stronger following the failure of international talks on the peace process last week in Beijing in which the Khmer Rouge maintained its intransigence.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to overthrow the ultra-radical Khmer Rouge regime in power at the time and installed a government that was more favourable towards it.

Hanoi later withdrew its troops from Cambodia and claims that the last of its soldiers left by September 1989. The Khmer Rouge contest the claim and has used it to justify their own intransigence.

Vietnamese officials had previously refused to speak on the talks, with the official press here covering them without providing commentary.

The Vietnamese source said that Hanoi did not favour the exclusion of the Khmer Rouge from the peace process, adding that "this would be admitting that the country had been partitioned" into various control zones.

The official said the Khmer Rouge could create "serious difficulties" for U.N. troops and the Phnom Penh government army, as "they still constitute an important military force and a non-negligible political force."

However, Hanoi remained reluctant to provide UNTAC with logistical support by giving the international organization transit rights through Vietnam's south, the official said.

"We can do small things, but not much," the official said. "The U.N. must first use all of its other possible accesses to Cambodia."

UNTAC has repeatedly asked for transit rights through Vietnam, especially for its ships to access Phnom Penh via the Mekong river.

Some 16,000 U.N. peacekeepers and 5,000 officials are in Cambodia, under the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), to implement the peace process.

Commentary Criticizes Khmer Rouge 'Obstacles'

BK1111103392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The State of Cambodia has proposed an end to the second phase of cease-fire to cope with the Khmer Rouge's aim. In this connection, the Voice of Vietnam has this to say:

It is obvious that the Khmer Rouge, a signatory to the Paris agreement, has not cooperated with other partners in the SNC [Supreme National Council] to fulfill their obligation, but rather has caused many obstacles to the implementation of this agreement.

Worse still, the Khmer Rouge has repeatedly violated the cease-fire and hindered the activities of UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authory in Cambodia].

Most recently, the Khmer Rouge has declared to resume their military attacks. For this very reason, a spokesman for the State of Cambodia, Mr. Khieu Kanharit, disclosed that at the coming session in Beijing, the State of Cambodia will propose that the United Nations put an end to the so-called second phase of the cease-fire so that the troops being recruited at cantonment can return to their units to cope with the Khmer Rouge's land-grabbing attacks and, at the same time, alleviate the military imbalance in the country at present. However, those who have been demobilized already will not be reconscripted.

Mr. Khieu Kanharit also said the State of Cambodia will ask the world community to adopt tougher measures to force the Khmer Rouge to stop its illegal military acts.

Foreign Minister Hor Namhong also criticized the Khmer Rouge for taking advantage of the UN (?endorsed) peace agreement to use up more land and to achieve the final goal to wrest back power. In fact, they are preparing for a large-scale offensive in the dry season. The spokesman pointed out that UN sanctions would be the last effort to bring the Khmer Rouge back to the peace process.

In a recent statement, UNTAC Head Mr. Akashi called on all the Cambodian factions to respect the peace process and to refrain themselves from all acts of military build-up or land-grabbing.

Failure of Beijing Meeting on Cambodia Viewed

BK1111133092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The unofficial meeting on Cambodia ended in failure in Beijing on Sunday, 8 November. Here is our talk to examine reasons leading to that failure.

In fact people can make a prediction even before the meeting. It is planned that all the representatives of the four Cambodian factions should be present in Beijing before the conference opening. However, Mr. Khieu Samphan, leader of the Khmer Rouge, was still late under the pretext of missing the plane while transiting in Hong Kong. Analysts held that Khieu Samphan's delay trip is the latest evidence of the Khmer Rouge's negative attitude toward the peace process in Cambodia.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Mr. Ali Alatas, one of the two co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, said at the conference that the Khmer Rouge's representative still held on to the repeated allegations, boycoting the second phase of the peace process in Cambodia and accusing Vietnam of leaving behind troops in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge held that Vietnam's presence in Cambodia will affect the general elections scheduled in May and due to Vietnam's continued presence, they had to prepare for counterattacks in self-defense.

These allegations were flatly rejected by UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority on Cambodia] head Mr. Akashi. He pointed out that UNTAC has conducted an investigation and confirmed that there is no evidence to back the Khmer Rouge's charges. These allegations are only pretexts used by the Khmer Rouge to (?undermine) the conference.

For his part, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said: The peace process in Cambodia should be readjusted. The Khmer Rouge's stand at this conference will lead to the implementation of the peace process without its participation. However, it is quite difficult to achieve peace in Cambodia because the Khmer Rouge have always attempted to destroy it.

Hanoi Calls for UN Actions Against Khmer Rouge

BK1211121792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Commentary by Duong Quang Minh]

[Text] The SNC [Supreme National Council of Cambodia] Conference held in Beijing on 7-8 November concluded with no results. The reason for the failure of the talks was that the Khmer Rouge rejected the implementation of the second phase of the peace process in Cambodia. Moreover, Mr. Khieu Samphan, head of the Khmer Rouge delegation, made a threat, saying that the Khmer Rouge are making preparations for counter attacks in the upcoming dry season. He said war may break out in Cambodia at any time.

It can be said that the Khmer Rouge's stubborn attitude has caused a new and serious crisis to develop in the Cambodia's peace process.

At the news conference at the end of the Beijing meeting, the two co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] namely Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, said the Khmer Rouge's attitude is unacceptable and that the Paris Peace Accord, signed last year, cannot be possibly implemented in the face of this. The two co-chairmen will report this situation to the United Nations on 15 November and will wait for its decision.

It is now obvious that parties concerned should not wait and try to persuade the Khmer Rouge to participate in the Paris accord. Instead, they must strive to stop the warlike actions of this faction to save the accord from collapsing. This is because the Khmer Rouge are not only preparing for war, they are ready to open fire immediately.

Various radio stations from Britain, France, and the United States said that to justify Khieu Samphan's provocative statement on waging war, on 8 November, the Khmer Rouge's forces attacked a control post of the UN Blue Berets in the Preah Vihear area near the Thai-Cambodian border. The attack by artillery and automatic guns lasted for more than two hours. According to observers, the attack was timed to coincide with the eve of the SNC Conference in Beijing.

For its part, the State of Cambodia knows about the Khmer Rouge sabotage of the Paris accord, especially their scheme to return to power in Cambodia. So, the State of Cambodia has proposed a suspension in the implementation of the second phase of the cease-fire to deal with the Khmer Rouge. It has also proposed that the international community adopt more drastic action to force them to stop their illegal military activities.

Many PICC members agree with the two co-chairmen's conclusion that the Khmer Rouge's attitude is unacceptable and that efforts should be made to stop them. Malaysian Foreign Minister Ahmad Badawi said: Malaysia supports all measures taken by the UN Security Council to eliminate the Khmer Rouge before the general elections in Cambodia. The Thai Army spokesman also said: The Thai Army is ready to close its border on receiving orders from the Thai Government against the Khmer Rouge. Meanwhile, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Mr. Akashi, special envoy of the UN Secretary General to Cambodia believe the UN Peace Keeping Force in Cambodia will be given new orders to protect the civilians and seriously supervise the implementation of the Paris accord.

The SRV is a signatory country of the PICC. It has consistently honored the treaty and has struggled unceasingly to ensure the implementation of the Paris accord. It also hopes the Cambodian people will carry out national conciliation satisfactorily and build Cambodia into an independent, peaceful, and neutral country living in friendship with other nations including Vietnam. In this context, Vietnam strongly condemns the the Khmer Rouge for their schemes and actions to escalate war activities and to oppose the implementation of the accord. We support the two co-chairmen's efforts as well as the UN Security Council's resolution, and we criticize and condemn the Khmer Rouge's warlike actions. We also support all acts aimed at ensuring the serious implementation of the peace process in Cambodia and at ending the new military adventures of the Khmer Rouge.

SRV-Cambodia Friendship Body Issues Statement

BK1111155392 Hanoi VNA in English 1415 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 11—The Vietnam-Cambodia friendship association calls on the world public to come out strongly against the Khmer Rouge's masacre of Vietnamese resident in Cambodia, and asks the UNTAC [United Nations Taransitional Authority in Cambodia] to take drastic measures to prevent the Khmer Rouge from perpetrating new crimes against the Vietnamese and to ensure a normal life for them.

This comes in a statement issued here today by the Vietnam-Cambodia Friendship Association following the confirmation of a spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) that Khmer Rouge soldiers were found guilty of the massacre of Vietnamese fishermen Nin Koh Kong, western Cambodia, last September. The statement continues: together with the undermining of the Paris agreements on Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge, despite condemnations of many governments and peoples, continued committing brutal massacres of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, and blatantly declared that they would use force to expel Vietnames residents from Phnom Penh. This challenges international laws and opinions, hampers the peace process in Cambodia, and jeopardizes the friendship and cooperation between Vietnamese and Cambodian people.

Relations With Japan Take 'New and Major Step'

BK1211030392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The relationship between Vietnam and Japan has taken a new and major step of development. The Japanese Government says it is ready to grant a Yen 45.5 billion loan to socio-economic development projects.

The two countries had to undergo a decade of difficulties before entering the new stage—the stage of further broadening the bilateral cooperation. In fact, Japan has increased its investment in Vietnam. This is the first time in the past 14 years that the two countries have any official relations at the governmental level, but for a long time now the two countries have developed relations in various fields.

In 1991 two-way trade turnover between the two countries reached nearly $800 million. A number of major companies of Japan have signed contracts on oil prospection and exploitation offshore Vietnam. Hundreds of Japanese enterprises have invested in various fields—industry, agriculture, transport, for example. The Vietnamese-Japanese Cultural Exchange Association and the Japanese-Vietnamese Cultural Exchange Association have proved to be effective in both Vietnam and Japan, contributing to promoting mutual understanding between the two people.

Further, Japanese private companies have also contributed to the socio-economic development of Vietnam. The award granted by the Happy World Company to the Hanoi [word indistinct] school is one of the manifestations of Japan's effective assistance to economic development in Vietnam.

Reportage on Visit of Philippine Foreign Minister

Romulo Arrives 10 Nov

BK1011145192 Hanoi VNA in English 1402 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 10—Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo arrived here this afternoon for an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government.

Minister Romulo was accompanied by a number of senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and more than 20 businessmen and journalists of the Philippines.

The Philippine foreign minister and his party ware welcomed at the government guest house by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co, and other senior Vietnamese officials.

Mr. Rodrigo S. A. Aragon, Philippine charge d'affaires A.I. in Vietnam, was also present.

Development of ASEAN Ties Reviewed

BK1111135592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN has been developed and become more diversified. This has helped in strengthening the regional cooperation. In this connection, the Voice of Vietnam has this to say:

Vietnam has always cherished friendship and cooperation with its neighbors in Southeast Asia. The ASEAN member countries have recently promoted relations with Vietnam and now attach great importance to this country. Last month, the Singaporean foreign minister paid an official visit to Vietnam. He has admitted positive changes in the country and affirmed continued cooperation with Vietnam.

The Philippine foreign minister will also pay a visit to Vietnam soon because the Philippine president has stated that his country cannot be left behind in relations with Vietnam.

In the last three years, the growth rate of trade between Vietnam and ASEAN member countries increased by two or three times, while ASEAN's investment in Vietnam increased considerably.

Following several trips to Vietnam by ASEAN leaders, recent developments demonstrate clearly the improvement in the relations between Vietnam and these ASEAN member countries.

It is expected that with those exchanges of visits by leaders of Vietnam and of ASEAN member countries, the existing ties between Vietnam and the ASEAN member countries will further develop and be more fruitful.

Premier Receives Romulo

BK1111145192 Hanoi VNA in English 1421 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 11—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received at the Presidential Palace here this afternoon Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romula and his party who are on an official visit to Vietnam. Present at the reception was Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed the visit as one of great significance in the relations between the two countries. He highly praised the Philippines' traditional heroic struggle for liberation of the country in the past, the achievements in its present economic reform, as well as its foreign policy, especially toward neighbouring countries. He said that historical similarity between the two countries constituted a basis for the establishment of understanding, trust and cooperation for mutual interests. He recalled his fine impressions of the official visit to the Philippines in last February, and expressed his satisfaction at the fine development of the relations between the two countries. Reiterating Vietnam's potential and full capability to develop multi-sided cooperation with the Philippines P.M. Kiet said Vietnam would make great efforts to achieve full implemention of the agreements on cooperation signed between the two countries and continue to seek for new possiblities of cooperation in conformity with each country's intrests, and for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region.

For his part, Foreign Minister Romula said that the cooperation between the two countries could be further developed only on the basis of mutual interests and trust, but not on inter-dependence. The Philippines pledged to meet Vietnam's needs in sharing experiences, training personnel, expanding two-way trading relations, and building infrastructural projects. He expressed his belief that Vietnam would continue to develop and gain successes in its renovation proces, and that the cooperation between the two countries would be furthered in the future for the prosperity of each country and for a Southeast Asia of peace, friendship, cooperation and development.

Foreign Minister Welcomes Friendship

BK1211124292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The official gesture of friendship toward Vietnam made by Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo will open up a new period of trust and understanding between the two countries for mutual benefit.

This was stated by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam at the press conference in Hanoi Thursday, 12 November, before the departure for Ho Chi Minh City by the Philippine foreign minister. Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said: The two sides held talks on various issues and discussed the possibility for a comprehensive relations between the two countries. For his part, the Philippine foreign minister said that through his Vietnam visit, the Philippines will study what the possibilities are for future cooperation with Vietnam. He also said that businessmen and companies in the Philippines have good opportunity to understand more about Vietnam as well as to [words indistinct] their business opportunity.

A press communique was released at the press conference. It stressed the two countries' determination to contribute to turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation, and development. The two sides called on countries inside and outside of the region to support efforts aimed at attaining this objective.

Manila Radio Reports Visit

HK1111134392 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Excerpts] [Philippine] Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo arrived in Hanoi today, and the areas the Philippines and Vietnam can cooperate in include banking, food processing, and tourism.

This was revealed by Romulo after he met with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam in a dinner that Foreign Minister Manh Cam hosted in honor of Secretary Romulo and a 20-man Philippine trade and investment mission, who arrived yesterday afternoon.

Romulo said that, aside from trade, the Vietnamese are certain about what help they need from the Philippines. He said the presence of top-caliber businessmen indicates the Philippine intention to deepen relations with Vietnam.

According to Manh Cam, there is basis for such relations between the two countries, citing the various agreements signed between the two countries over the years.

He said the visit is an opportunity to discuss topics related to the bilateral relations.

The Philippine delegation includes the president and chief operating officer of San Miguel Corporation, Francisco Eizmendi, who said his company is looking into putting up a brewery and food processing plant in Hanoi. He said Vietnam's population of 70 million is a big consumer base. He added that San Miguel beer is already selling well in Hanoi.

Eizmendi said the Vietnamese Government's positive attitude towards creating a free market economy is reinforcing businessmen's expectations.

Last February, former Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus and Foreign Minister Manh Cam signed an agreement calling for a Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation and Joint Commission on Trade. The two commissions are expected to implement the basic agreement on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and trade agreements between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Today, Philippine business leaders also met with their Vietnamese counterparts to discuss food processing. In addition to Eizmendi, the party also includes Renato Magadia, who offered his expertise in flour and feed milling. In banking, Raul de Mesa, executive vice president of the Bank of Commerce, held meetings with his counterparts. In tourism, Virginia Zamora Gonzales, president of the Magellan Hotel, and Danny Chua, vice president of Imex Pan Pacific and Mila Tanchi, executive vice president of Sampaguita Travel Corporation, met with Vietnamese travel executives. In the area of handicrafts business, Jesus Pineda Jr. met with several Vietnamese officials on his plastic and paper flower industry. In the area of housing, infrastructure, and industrial projects, Mr. Vicente Reyes, Attorney Patronio Vilar, and Oscar Ocampo met with their counterparts.

Horacio Abelardo Jr., president of the Philippines-Vietnam Trade Council, and council Vice President Rene Ocampo of Philippine Airlines led the business leaders on a tour of business centers in Hanoi.

Secretary Romulo is also scheduled to meet with Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. [passage omitted]

As reported earlier, the issue of the Spratly Islands is also expected to be discussed. Officials at the Philippine Embassy in Hanoi said the issue is on Romulo's agenda.

The United States stated during the Mutual Defense Board meeting last week that it is asking for a presence in the Philippines, and the Philippines is willing to give the Americans access, which means that the Americans can use our air and naval bases.

French Deputy Foreign Minister Georges Kiejman had also said France would oppose the use of force to settle the conflict.

These two statements appear to be pointed towards the People's Republic of China, which is one of the claimants of the Spratlys. The other claimants are Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan.

Tomorrow, we will be going to Ho Chi Minh City, named after the Vietnamese leader whose mausoleum we visited, where he lies in his glass casket for public viewing. He died in 1969, but his body is still well preserved and shown to the public. [passage omitted]

Romulo Cites Concerns Over Spratlys

HK1211070192 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 12 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Johanna Son]

[Text] Hanoi—The Philippines has stepped up diplomatic efforts to drum up support for the peaceful resolution of the South China Sea disputes, even as Vietnam expressed its "continued concern" over China's hiring of an American firm to search for oil and gas in the Spratly Islands.

During bilateral talks yesterday morning at the Vietnamese foreign ministry, Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam of the European Community's support for the Asean Declaration on the South China Sea and "other moves we (Filipino officials) are making to ensure that the territorial dispute there is resolved without recourse to force of arms."

Romulo told reporters later that Vietnam had given word they would participate in an informal workshop to be sponsored by the Philippines that would discuss marine assessment in the South China Sea, meant as a first step toward cooperative ventures in the area as a confidence-building measure.

Nevertheless, sources at the meeting quoted the Vietnamese as saying they still saw the Chinese decision to start oil exploration in the Spratlys as "illegal and unacceptable."

"They expressed their continued concern on Crestone (Energy Corp. hired by Beijing) because that's still unresolved," Romulo explained after the meeting broke up.

The Vietnamese position indicated that they were unconvinced by Beijing's recent assurances that they had "no warlike intentions" in the South China Sea, given by the Chinese to Filipino officials in diplomatic consultations last month in Beijing.

Vietnam had protested the U.S.' hiring of Crestone in the area of Spratlys that China calls "Vanguard 21" and Hanoi claims it as its own as well. Hanoi even asked the U.S. State Department to stop the implementation of the contract, and the Chinese have said it "would take some time" before actual exploration starts.

Still, Romulo said, Hanoi remains worried. Despite the China-Vietnam divergence of views and their fighting a brief gunbattle over the Paracels, Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng is slated to visit Vietnam later this month.

The Philippine and Vietnamese sides also discussed Vietnamese refugees in the Philippines and areas of cooperation to be announced publicly today.

Vietnam itself had fully supported the Asean Declaration on the South China Sea, which commits all claimants to the non-use of force and to joint cooperation in the area.

The Spratlys, a chain of islets in the South China Sea, is claimed in part or wholly by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines.

Officials added that the Vietnamese were supportive of calls for further and stepped-up dialogue with other claimants to the Spratlys, in the wake of China's moves that worry them.

In Manila, a foreign affairs official appearing in a Senate hearing cited a 1979 exchange of notes between Philippine and American officials to support his statement that the United States is obliged to come to the Philippines' aid in case of attack over the Spratly islands.

DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] Undersecretary Tomas Syquia said that Cyrus Vance, state secretary during the term of Jimmy Carter, had written then Foreign Secretary Carlos Romulo an official note informing him that under the Mutual Defense Treaty, the U.S. was obliged to help in case of an armed attack on the Philippines' metropolitan territory, armed forces or public vessels.

Under questioning by Sen. Blas Ople, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, Syquia said he interpreted the exchange of notes to mean that the U.S. would commit its forces if the Philippines is attacked over the Spratlys.

Told that Admiral Charles Larson, commander of the U.S. Pacific command, already stated that the U.S. does not recognize any claim over the whole or part of the Spratly island group, Syquia said he was not aware of the statement.

ROK Bank Opens Ho Chi Minh City Branch

BK1211030192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] The Export-Import Bank of Korea opened its representative office in Ho Chi Minh City on Monday. The bank is expected to make a considerable contribution toward economic interchange between Vietnam and South Korea as well as contributing toward the economic development of Vietnam which is seeking external finance and development experience.

According to Mr (Kwan Ho-pak), chief representative, the bank has already financed several investment projects and there are a number of projects in the pipeline.

ROK Delegation Explores Business Opportunities

BK1211070992 Hanoi VNA in English 0541 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 12—A delegation of South Korean officials has been to Vietnam to explore trade and business opportunities as well as inquire into the current environment for foreign investment.

The delegation comprised officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, economic planning, finance, trade and industry.

During their stay from October 28 to November 6, the South Korean officials, led by Vice Chairman Han Song-san of Kotra, held talks with counterparts in the State Planning Committee (SPC), the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) and the ministries of finance, trade and tourism.

They visited several production units and toured Hanoi, Haiphong, Danang and Ho Chi Minh City.

Officials in Seoul To Open Liaison Office

BK1211030992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Vietnam's new representative in South Korea will arrive in Seoul on Tuesday [10 November] to establish a liaison office, a prelude to restoring full diplomatic relations. The liaison office, headed by Mr Nguyen Phu Binh, will be responsible for supporting the economic cooperation and conducting popular activities. Trade between Vietnam and South Korea increased to $334 million in the first nine months of this year, from $240 million during the whole of last year.

Cuban Party, Government Delegation Arrives

BK1111151892 Hanoi VNA in English 1414 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 11—A delegation of the Cuban party and Government led by Jaimer Crombet Hernandez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived here this afternoon for an official friendship visit.

The Cuban delegation was greeted at the government guest house by Tran Kien, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Cong Tan, member of the CPV Central Committee, minister of agriculture and food industry and president of the Vietnam-Cuba Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation and other senior party and government officials.

This evening, the Cuban guests were feted by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong. After the reception, they attended an art performance in honour of the Cuba delegation.

Economic Relations With Australia Viewed

BK1011131192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Article by Dinh Hong Thang; from the "International Topic" program]

[Summary] "In the eyes of Australian businessmen, Vietnam has some characteristics similar to Japan or South Korea after the war with the possibility of a blossoming economy.

"The two-way trade between Vietnam and Australia increased from 6 million Australian dollars in 1984 to A$71 million in 1991 and it will increase to about A$125 million this year. At the moment, there are about 100 companies, including the biggest Australian companies, studying the possibility of doing business in Vietnam.

"In the last two years, the bilateral trade relations between the two countries have been built on firm foundations. Many important agreements have been signed, such as the Agreement on Economic and Trade Cooperation in 1990, the Agreement on Investment Protection in 1991, and the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Tax in 1992. And the joint economic committee at ministerial level of the two countries was formed."

The cooperation between the two countries ranges from energy, mineral exploitation, natural resource exploration, light industry, to informatics, tourism, infrastructure building, banking, and education. The talks held between different ministries of the two countries have created favorable conditions for quick development of bilateral trade and economic relations.

Australia also supported the efforts of France and other countries in helping Vietnam repay its debts to IMF. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet highly evaluated the Australia's support of France's initiative to form a group of Vietnam's friends to help Vietnam repay debts to international finance organizations.

Sixteen Australian companies, which followed Minister Blewet's delegation on its Vietnam visit, formed the Australia-Vietnam Business Committee, AVBC, in March 1992. And AVBC presented a road map for its cooperation with Vietnam. Since 1991, Australia has been one of the countries with the highest level of investment in Vietnam with a total investment of A$278 million.

Australia started granting aid to Vietnam in 1975. After that, even when it did not directly grant aid to Vietnam, the Australian Government still conducted activities to lighten the effect of the ADB [Asian Developing Bank] and IMF ttrade embargo. In October 1991, Australian Government resumed its aid to Vietnam.

Vo Van Kiet Meets Provincial Village Cadres

BK1011134392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] In Hanoi on 5 November, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held a meeting with comrade secretaries of Party and People's Committees of Hop Thinh Village, Tam Dao District, Vinh Phu Province; Cat Que Village, Hoai Duc District, Ha Tay Province; and Thach Khoi Village, Tu Lap District, Hai Hung Province. These are the pilot villages selected to carry out tasks on rural development and improvement of village cadres. The Prime Minister visited these villages in January this year.

Comrade secretaries of Party and People's Committees at these villages briefed the Prime Minister on the socioeconomic situation in their localities and past achievements since his visit. They also briefed him on their management difficulties in administrative work and the aspirations of village cadres. On this occasion, they contributed their ideas to the formulation of an incentive policy for village cadres.

The Prime Minister extended his kind regards to these comrades and commended the cadres of Hop Thinh, Cat Que, and Thach Khoi Villages for their unity and enthusiasm in labor productivity, their serious implementation of the party's and state's policies, their efforts to improve the people's daily life and to build new, beautiful, and prosperous rural areas. The Prime Minister sympathized with village cadres on their hardship in carrying out various tasks while staying close to the people to help solve their daily problems. The Prime Minister stressed: All village cadres must set a good example for the local people, especially in implementing state lines and policies. The state is studying the formulation of an appropriate policy for the village cadres. Most importantly, each village should at the present time, strive to mobilize its capital to help settle financial issues. This is to help relieve the difficulties of by the village cadres, especially since allotment of state budget to villages is still limited.

Discusses Antismuggling Measures

BK1011151592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held a conference on 5 November with the chairman of Lang Son Province People's Committee; chiefs of the transportation, financial, post and telegraph, customs, market management, and people's police sectors; and a number of editors-in-chief of newspapers, radio and television stations at the central level to review tasks and discuss measures to continue suppressing smuggling and tax evasion on the Hanoi-Lang Son rail route.

Since the announcement of the prime minister's directive, the Lang Son Province People's Committee has seriously controlled agencies concerned and has taken various measures to suppress goods smuggling.

Lang Son Province, as of October, had collected taxes fulfilling the target set for 1992. Although the volume of goods passing through the border check points was reduced by one-third, tax collection increased by 50 percent as compared to the corresponding period last year.

The Finance Ministry's Tax Department has coordinated with Lang Son Province and the Railway Department to reorganize the tax collection system. They recently reviewed the performances of tax officials and took disciplinary action against three officials of Lang Son Province's Tax Office.

Comrade Bui Danh Luu, minister of Communications and Transportation, and Doan Se, director of the Railway Union, proposed new measures to stop smuggling and the use of state means of transportation to help smugglers carrying their work. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet urged chiefs of agencies to seriously deal with violators, saying that all officials concerned must bear full responsibility if violations continue to prevail.

The prime minister urged sectors concerned to immediately carry out the following three tasks:

1. All smuggling and corruption cases reported by the press must be promptly investigated and seriously dealt with so as to inform the people of the results through various mass media channels.
2. The press is dutybound to inform the public of law violations so that the people may know and the government may take drastic action against them.

3. While monitoring acts of smuggling and corruption, efforts should be made by agencies concerned to improve the daily life of cadres and combatants responsible for this task. Measures should be taken to ensure a stable life and a better incentive for those who have had meritorious services to the government. Those who have already violated state law should repent to receive leniency. From now on, all those who violate the law will be subject to drastic measures. All transportation agencies, including the Railway Department, must strive to promptly implement the policy on the suppression of smuggling and corruption.

Discusses Economy With Italian Envoy

BK1011144592 Hanoi VNA in English 1412 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 10—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet today received Italian Ambassador to Vietnam Gianluigi Pasquinelli.

Ambassador G.L. Pasquinelli informed Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet that Italy followed with interest the renovation in Vietnam and the achievements gained by the Vietnamese people in that process. He said the Italian Government wishes to further develop the cooperation between the two countries.

On behalf of the Vietnamese Government and people, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed sincere gratitude for the Italian Government and people's assistance to Vietnam, especially for 1990-94 period.

He said that the two countries' potentials are great but the two-way trade value is still now. He wished for the cooperation in the fields of economy, commerce, science and technology, and investment between the two countries further development in the interests of each country, and for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region.

First ECIP-Funded School for Returnees Built

BK1111160392 Hanoi VNA in English 1409 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 11—A school for Vietnamese returnees built with financial assistance from the EC International Programme [ECIP] for the intergration of vietnamese returnees has been inaugurated in Cam An village, Hoi An Township, Quang Nam Danang central province. The school, the first of its [words indistinct] in the province, has six fully-furnished classroom [words indistinct] facilities. Quang Nam Danang is one of 15 cities and provinces in the country that have benefited from ECIP help in the execution of the second phase of the [words indistinct] starting last june.

Nong Duc Manh Meets Veteran Cadres, Families

BK1011141592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] In Hanoi, on 6 November, comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau concurrently chairman of the National Assembly, and chief of the party Central Committee Nationalities Department, received a delegation of veteran cadres and families of fallen combatants and wounded soldiers from Tra Luong Village, Dong Trieu District, Quang Ninh Province.

Also present at the meeting was comrade Y Ngong Niek Dam, chairman of the National Assembly Nationalities Council.

Tra Luong Village was a revolutionary base during the war against French colonialism. People at this village participated in the heroic struggle of Hong Quang zone of the former Hai Duong Province.

Comrades Nong Duc Manh and Y Ngong Niek Dam cordially talked to the delegation and solicitously inquired about their health. They also asked about the villagers' cultural life and aspirations of village ethnic minorities.

First War Veteran Congress To Be Held 19-20 Nov

BK1111101092 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] On 6 November, the Vietnam War Veteran Association [VWVA] Central Committee held a news conference to brief newsmen on the first VWVA congress to be held on 19-20 November at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

The congress will be attended by 324 delegates representing 700,000 VWVA members throughout the country.

The congress will appraise the performance and activities of the VWVA in the past three years, discuss lessons and experiences on formulating orientations and tasks for the days ahead, adopt the official statute, and elect its Central

Australia

Human Rights Delegation's PRC Visit Discussed

BK1211125192 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 12 Nov 92

[From the "International report" program]

[Text] The head of an official Australian delegation investigating human rights in China says Beijing has made a serious mistake in refusing the group permission to go to Tibet. During its first visit last year the delegation visited the remote Chinese province where it found serious human rights problems affecting the religious and cultural freedoms of Tibetans. Anger over the group's findings and the meeting earlier this year between Prime Minister Paul Keating and Tibet's exiled leader, the Dalai Lama, had been given as reasons for refusing to allow the delegation a follow-up visit. Despite that decision, the extensive restrictions on where the delegation can go, the group has strongly defended its presence in China. More from Beijing correspondent Kate Wall:

[Begin recording] [Wall] When the Australian delegation was first in China 16 months ago, it presented authorities with the list of more than 200 names of people believed to be imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs. It sought information about their status and health. And Chinese officials indicated they would convey those details to the Australian embassy in Beijing. Information about only a handful was released.

Now, on its second visit, the delegation has given China's justice ministry 211 names, many of whom were on the original list. It's an exercise repeated by nearly every Western human rights delegation that has come to China since the Australians were allowed in last year. The Chinese in turn provide little or no information. They told the Australian group that China had 4,000 prisoners held for crimes of counterrevolution, communist jargon for opposing the party's rule. The figure is 1,000 less than that given a European delegation earlier this year but excludes the thousands of political prisoners held under so-called administrative detention.

Delegation leader, Labor Senator Chris Schacht says that the group's meeting with government officials in Beijing are less tense than last year's. But as happened before, the delegation has been refused access to certain political prisoners and this year has not been allowed a follow-up visit to Tibet. Despite such limitations, Senator Schacht defends the delegation's visit.

[Schacht] I think it's much better under these restrictions that we have to continue the dialogue because we are forcing the Chinese officials in the bureaucracy to deal and to fight the issue of human rights. I had never had to do that before. By our responding and as clear to us, they are concerned about the international environment on human rights. Certainly they have expected [words indistinct] others have walked in here and say these are the following prisoners who have been released as a result of this wonderful Australian human rights delegation. I have never had that expectation and all that would be a dramatic outcome. What I think is much more useful for delegations such as ours is to continue what I called a slogging marathon (?style of work) and engaging in dialogue, engaging in discussion, and raising with officials. Here is a weakness in their administrative and legal law and how the country's administered, how individual human rights are not protected as we would think appropriate from our perspective.

[Wall] Chinese officials have also provided further information as to why the delegation is not allowed to go to Tibet. The initial reason was that Chinese authorities in the capital, Lhasa, were too busy to receive the group. But in Beijing, officials have criticized the delegation's first report which found serious human rights problems in the remote province especially related to religious and political freedoms of Tibetans. Senator Schacht says the Australian Government has also been accused of trying to split China by sanctioning this year's visit to Australia by Tibet's exiled Buddhist leader, the Dalai Lama. Canberra, however, supports Beijing's sovereignty over Tibet. Senator Schacht says the refusal to allow the delegation back into Tibet is wrong.

[Schacht] I believe the Chinese made a serious mistake in not enabling us to visit Tibet this occasion because I think people [words indistinct] something they might have to hide. So, I believe it would have been more beneficial [words indistinct] for us to pay a visit. Hopefully, on our third visit we can go into Tibet.

[Wall] The delegation's next stop is the far western province of Sinkiang where the Muslim minority, like Tibetans, is opposed to Chinese rule. [end recording]

Protests Mark Anniversary of Dili 'Massacre'

BK1211104092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Darwin, Australia, Nov 12 (AFP)—A window of the Indonesian Consulate was smashed during a demonstration by a 120-strong crowd of East Timorese and supporters on the anniversary of the Dili massacre here Thursday.

The protesters had earlier placed 273 wooden crosses on a grass strip outside the consulate, each carrying a name from a list of 273 East Timorese claimed by the East Timorese resistance movement to have been killed in the massacre.

As protesters yelled slogans, an East Timorese woman burned a black veil outside the consulate, in a traditional ritual marking the end of a year of grieving.

An Indonesian official commission of enquiry said in December that the shooting by troops in Dili had caused "at least 50 deaths," injured 91 and left 90 missing.

In Sydney, a 48-hour vigil outside the Indonesian Consulate got under way, and a similar protest was held outside the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra.

In Brisbane about 100 protesters gathered in the city centre, and in Melbourne a Catholic leader, Monsignor Hilton Deakin condemned the Australian Government's attitude to East Timor. Deakin, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Melbourne, said he was "amazed" Canberra could be so sensitive to human rights' abuses in South Africa, but not to those in East Timor.

Australia, unlike the United Nations, has recognised Indonesia's 1976 annexation of the former Portuguese colony following a bloody invasion. [passage omitted]

Laotian Deputy PM Visits To Seek Investment

BK1111052492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] According to news reports by Radio Australia, Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], met with Australia's high-level [as heard] minister in Canberra on 9 November.

The meeting is part of Khamphoui Keoboualapha's 12-day visit to Australia in a mission to attract more Australian investments to Laos.

The visit by the Lao deputy prime minister is made on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and Laos.

In the meeting with John Kerin, Australia's junior minister for trade and overseas development, Khamphoui Keoboualapha was accompanied by Bountiam Phitsamai, acting minister of foreign economic relations.

Earlier, Khamphoui Keoboualapha participated in a seminar on Australian investment in Laos, which was held in Sydney last week. On the occasion, the Lao deputy prime minister said that the Lao Government is paying special attention to Australian investments in Laos in the fields of agriculture, public utilities, and tourism.

October Jobless Rate Reaches Postwar High

BK1211062892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Australia's unemployment rate has jumped to a new postwar high of 11.3 percent. The latest figures, official as they are, are a blow to the Australian Government's hopes for economic and political recovery. Linda Mortrum reports Australia's opposition is already warning the country is in danger of sliding into a depression.

[Begin Mortrum recording] Almost 980,000 Australians are out of work putting the unemployment rate at 11.3 percent. It is a substantial jump from the September figure of 10.8 percent, which was the third consecutive month of a slight fall in unemployment. The previous peak was just last June as the impact of the recession pushed the jobless rate to a 11.1 percent.

The new postwar record in unemployment indicates the country's recovery from recession is still extremely weak and unable to absorb the rising number of people who have officially reregistered and are undoubtedly looking for work under the impression that they now have a better chance of getting a job. It also puts Australia's unemployment problem firmly back on the national political agenda and again highlights the mammoth political problem for Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating, who must go into an election in the first half of next year. [end recording]

Victoria State Labor Laws Spark National Protest

BK1111065492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Melbourne, Australia, Nov 11 (AFP)—The new conservative government in the state of Victoria was pushing its draconian labour laws through parliament Wednesday despite mass protests which threatened to explode into an Australia-wide industrial war.

A day after the largest union protests seen here for decades, the upper house of the southeastern state parliament passed the industrial relations bill in a 21-hour sitting but referred some amendments to the lower house.

"It will pass the lower house," a government spokesman said Wednesday, "tonight sometime."

Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett, who ousted the state's Labor government in a landslide victory on October 4, pushed on with his bill, ignoring at least 100,000 people marching in protest as part of a state-wide general strike Tuesday.

"We were not elected for popularity reasons, we were elected to get it right," Kennett said on radio.

Federal conservative opposition leader John Hewson dared Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating to call an early general election after Keating claimed a Hewson-led government would create industrial mayhem with its own labour reform proposals.

Hewson said the country could not tolerate the rolling strikes foreshadowed by union leaders.

The country's umbrella Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) is organising a national day of protest on November 30.

"He (Keating) sets out to fundamentally divide the nation and whip up hysterical reaction among a small section, trying to suggest that this is what life would be like under Hewson," the opposition leader told reporters.

"I formally challenge him to go to an election as fast as possible so the people of Australia have a chance to vote on a referendum of his economic mismanagement," Hewson said.

A federal election must be fought by May next year. Under the system here a government can call a poll before its three-year term expires.

Under Kennett's law, Victorian workers will lose the right to extra pay for night and weekend work and all employees will lose their 17.5 percent annual leave loading.

The right to strike will be restricted and pickets limited to six people, under threat of criminal action.

Unions bitterly opposed the legislation, which will force about 800,000 workers on state-wide agreements to sign individual employment contracts.

The federal Liberal/National Party coalition intends to decentralise Australia's wage-fixing system and supports the case for reform in recession-wracked Victoria, but has distanced itself from the details of the Kennett package.

In neighbouring New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, Premier John Fahey condemned the ACTU's plans for a national day of protest.

"I have described it as a national day of disgrace," he told reporters.

"The problems of Victoria are well known—those problems should be kept in Victoria."

Keating was keen "to stir the whole thing up in the most irresponsible fashion," he said.

Fahey defended Kennett's reforms, saying:

"He had a mandate to do what he's doing. He has a problem that is absolutely mammoth."

Treasurer John Dawkins, speaking in Canberra, blamed Kennett for industrial strife, saying:

"The problems that have occurred in the last couple of days have all been brought about by Kennett deliberately and I think he should realise that. I think he should pull his head in."

Dawkins refused to comment on renewed speculation that some Labor MPs were pushing for a December 19 election following the strike and the Keating government's improved standing in opinion polls.

New Zealand

Record Exports Feed Quarterly Trade Surplus

BK1111053492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0451 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Wellington, Nov 11 (AFP)—Record exports contributed to New Zealand's 22 million New Zealand dollar (11.6 million U.S.) trade surplus for the June quarter, the Statistics Department said in a statement Wednesday.

The surplus was down on the 171 million New Zealand dollar (90 million dollars) current account surplus for last year's June quarter, the statement said.

But the annual deficit for the June year of 458 million dollars (241 million dollars) was an improvment on the 1.3 billion dollars (685 million dollars) deficit for the previous corresponding period, the statement added.

Exports were a record five billion dollars (2.6 billion dollars) in the June quarter while imports were 3.5 billion (1.8 billion dollars).

Opposition Labour finance spokesman Michael Cullen said the figures show the improvement in the balance of trade has peaked.

Cullen said he expected the balance of payments to further deteriorate in the September quarter.

"We have passed the peak of the improvement in the balance of payments," he said.

Papua New Guinea

New Defense Force Commander Named

BK0611082092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea has a new defense force commander. He is Colonel (Bob Dabumo), who has been acting commander for the past month. Sean Dorney reports that the extended term of the former commander, Brigadier General (Rockus Rokina), has expired and has not been renewed.

Tonga

Catholic Bishop on King's Political Party Plan

BK0611052092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0410 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Nuku'alofa, Nov 6 (AFP)—People behind an allegedly royal-sponsored plan to establish a political party in Tonga were "devious and unenlightened", the head of the Catholic Church, Bishop Patelisio Finau, said here.

In an interview given Thursday to the TONGAN INTERNATIONAL newspaper he said they were "cheats" and "living in the dark".

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV is believed to be personally backing the plan to create Tonga's first political party to counter growing calls for him to give up some of his near absolute power.

Prime Minister Baron Vaea last week held a secret meeting with church leaders to urge them to help with the creation of a "Christian Democratic Party".

Finau, who was present at that meeting, said Thursday he held another meeting with Vaea to clarify issues raised.

He said it appeared the government was manipulating the churches, wanting them to put up nine candidates for general elections early next year.

Tonga's unicameral parliament is made up of 12 ministers appointed for life by the king, nine representatives elected by the 33 nobles and nine MPs elected by around 90,000 commoners.

A group of commoners' MPs is leading calls for greater democracy and will hold a three-day conference here from November 24 to discuss ways to change the Constitution.

The government initially said it would send representatives but they backed out, also saying it would allow no foreign participants into Tonga.

Churches should not be an instrument of government or be involved in the manipulation of the state, Finau said.

"Whoever advised the king and the government to bring the church leaders into their plan are devious and unenlightened."

Finau, a long outspoken critic of royal rule, said he expressed concern about the use of the word "Christian" in the new party's title, saying there was no guarantee it would be run on Christian principles.

He noted that the government, in a statement on last week's meeting, had termed it "historic", being the first such since 1875 when King George Tupou I met church leaders to present them with the Constitution now used.

Finau said he hoped the latest meeting would not amount to repeating the mistakes of the 1875 meeting.

He said people did not want a political party, "They want justice and fairness."

The king's role in the party idea is not clear, but one of the commoner MPs, Viliami Fukofuka, who is also backing it, said one of the young nobles had recently been called to the palace to discuss ways of establishing a new party.

The leading pro-democracy MP, 'Akilisi Pohiva, said that although the party idea was ill-conceived, it was a sign the government was aware of growing public concern.

"There is no need to start a party as they already have a party," Pohiva said. "It is the cabinet and the nobles."

Vanuatu

Opposition Parties Boycott National Parliament

BK0911070092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Vanuatu's four opposition parties have boycotted parliament leading for the cancellation of today's sitting. Radio Australia's South Pacific correspondent Jemima Garrett said the move comes in the wake of opposition threat to a move of a no confidence motion in the prime minister Maxime Carlot.

[Begin recording] [Garrett] According to opposition leader (Donald Kapaca) the boycott was prompted by the government's failure to give sufficient notice for its appropriation bill. The opposition action comes as the National United Party continues internal discussion over whether it should pull out of the governing coalition in favor of forming a new government with the four opposition parties.

Mr. (Kapaca) has said he will only move a no confidence motion if he can be assured of victory. [end recording]